

## **The Learning Autobiography & Self Assessment**

***The Learning Autobiography & Self Assessment is the second required assignment for the LAS. It must be written and submitted to your instructor no later than the start time of the second class meeting. The LA/SA must be at least five (5) typed, double-spaced pages in length; bibliographic citation is not necessary unless you include others' words or ideas.***

The purpose of this assignment is to reflect thoroughly on your past learning experiences, articulate the major ones, and connect them to your goals and desires for present and future learning. In this Learning Autobiography, you will identify patterns in life-learning. Focus on the outcomes of specific experiences rather than the details of the experiences themselves. In other words, what qualities did you develop from certain life experiences? How do you see these qualities shaping your way of approaching new learning? Identify 3 or 4 major life events and write about the qualities each one helped to develop in you, and ways these qualities contribute to the way you learn.

### **(Learning Autobiography/Self Assessment Assignment Instructions)**

To begin organizing your learning history, you may find it helpful to create a timeline of important events, and significant people, in your life. You may wish to include events such as:

Moves to new places, homes, jobs  
Siblings and children born  
Schools attended; Jobs held  
Marriage, divorce  
Illnesses, deaths of family members or friends  
Accomplishments; Major decisions  
Other events that had an impact on you  
Persons who made a deep impact (either positive or negative)

### **Essay Format:**

#### **Introductory Section:**

Begin by stating the purpose of the assignment in your own words, and by giving a very brief overview of the kinds of life events and significant people from whom you have learned.

#### **Main Section ("Body"):**

Discuss the key learning events, and the people from whom you have learned. Identify several overarching patterns in the way you learn, in the way you approach (or avoid) learning, and in the patterns in your vision of yourself as an educated person.

Look for patterns or themes. Draw some conclusions about yourself as a learner.

*Examples:*

- *Sitting in a classroom just never worked very well for me.*
- *I think I learned to be a good manager by experiencing my mother, and those good and bad coaches during all those years on the football and baseball fields.*
- *My behavior in various jobs shows that I learn best by just getting in there and doing it, by finding a mentor to teach me, by taking classes.*

State what made you decide to return to school and why you chose DePaul SNL.

Concluding Section:

Provide a brief synopsis of the patterns in your own way of learning and connect them to your current motivations, questions, and goals for undergraduate degree completion. What patterns have remained the same? Are new patterns in learning, and knowing, and questioning, beginning to appear? How will your B.A. degree, and the Focus Area you've chosen, help you to align yourself with the positive patterns in learning you can identify in your life thus far?