

<i>Excellent:</i>	<i>Satisfactory:</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory:</i>
-------------------	----------------------	------------------------

## Definition of Self

**Overview:** Defining something – a word, a relationship, a feeling – can be difficult at times. But reaching a definition allows for clarity and understanding. The process of crafting a definition requires evaluation, precision, accuracy, and commitment. Finding the right word that represents something involves a great deal of comparison (of different words), analysis (of which words are the most accurate) and decision-making (committing to a clear and specific definition), and support (showing the accuracy of that definition).

**Topic:** You need to define your self with one word and develop an extended definition from that word. For this paper, your subject will be narrowed to you, but you will still have a great deal of freedom in choosing a word that accurately represents how you see yourself. You will choose an existing word (that has a definition that defines you) and then illustrate through experience and example how it represents you. To make it an extended definition you will need to utilize *narrative essay* strategies (see “Writing Narratives” in R&WW).

**Purpose:** To articulate a clear definition that will inform yourself and your audience.

**Audience:** Yourself, your instructor, and your classmates.

**Strategies:** For this paper, you will need to include:

- A clearly stated definition of your self that is specific, focused, and accurate
- Personal experience(s) where your behavior exemplifies the word you have selected in order to support your definition (using narrative strategies)
- A strategy listed on pages 196-198 in R&WW (definition by comparison, definition by synonym, definition by negation)

**Details:**

- 2 - 3 pages (double-spaced, 12 pt. font, 1" margins on all sides)
- Final draft due January 21<sup>st</sup>
- Worth 100 points or 10% of your grade

<p><b>Purpose:</b> There is a clearly stated thesis that defines you in one word. The entire paper concentrates on that word and effectively extends the definition. The purpose is achieved as the word and the extended definition clearly connects to your self.</p>	<p>There is a thesis but it may not clearly state the purpose of the paper. The paper focuses on a word throughout the paper and extends its definition. The purpose is probably achieved, but there could be stronger ties between the word and your self in your examples or experiences.</p>	<p>There isn't a clearly stated claim. You may not have narrowed down to one word or you picked a word that doesn't exist. The paper doesn't effectively extend the definition. There is a disconnect between the experiences provided and the actual definition. You don't clearly connect the word to your self.</p>
<p><b>Support and Development:</b> There is a great deal of purposeful, relevant support (experiences, examples, details) used consistently. The support <u>clearly</u> illustrates the way the word represents your self. You utilized one of the strategies from your text (pg. 197).</p>	<p>There is a sufficient amount of support to extend the definition, but the support could be developed more. The support relates the word to your self, but could do so more clearly. You utilized one of the strategies, but could have developed it more.</p>	<p>There is not a sufficient amount of support to show how this word represents your self. The paper may be repetitive and the examples may be thin and underdeveloped. The connections between support and purpose are weak. It isn't clear that you used a strategy from your text.</p>
<p><b>Organization:</b> The opening effectively introduces the purpose and states a thesis. The body thoroughly develops and extends the definition through clear topic sentences, transitions, and strong support. There is clear order in the structure of the paper. The conclusion reflects on the definition as a whole and draws the paper to a satisfying conclusion.</p>	<p>The opening introduces the general point but could do so more clearly. The body extends the definition and uses some examples, but may not do so in a clear order or with clear topic sentences and/or transitions. The conclusion shows reflection on the definition but may be repetitive, underdeveloped, or mechanical.</p>	<p>The opening doesn't accurately introduce the purpose or thesis. The body isn't organized in a logical way or lacks guidance in the form of topic sentences and transitions. The conclusion is missing or weak.</p>
<p><b>Conventions and Style:</b> Tone is appropriately self-reflective and honest. The draft is free of errors.</p>	<p>The tone is relatively appropriate but may occasionally seem insincere or too casual. The draft has a few errors, but is fairly polished.</p>	<p>The tone may be too casual, unreliable or there may not be a personal tone at all and this may feel like a report. The draft may have excessive errors that distract your audience.</p>