



Fun Work Assignment #1

This week we're exploring how to generate story ideas, and how to incorporate aspects of your life into your travel writing.

What kind of travel stories interest you most? Essays, round-ups, service pieces, etc? It's good to identify what you enjoy writing, though you're by no means limited to this.

Your niche: when it comes to traveling, what is your favorite aspect of travel? Do you love adventure travel? Beaches, museums, food, family activities, etc.?

You must love what you write about. What can you envision writing about over and over?

What are some themes from your life that you can incorporate into your writing? i.e. you love to live “green,” you love cooking, you have a family, you love nightlife, activities to do as a couple, quirky sites, history, wine, etc. Name a few here:

Make a list of travel destinations that fascinate you, even if you haven't yet visited them.

Take one of these locations and explore the many nuances of this place. List 5-6 things you could write about this one place.

Think about the last place you traveled to: what ideas pop into your mind that would make great stories.

Finding an angle to your story requires some detective work. What story do you want to tell?

One tip to landing your first travel story is write about where you live—and pitch the idea to a newspaper or magazine elsewhere. Explore where you live from a traveler’s point of view—then list some aspects and activities where you live that you could write about. If you have “insider” secrets about where you live, then all the better! Editors are always looking for new ideas.

Answering these questions will get your creative juices flowing so that you can start crafting story ideas to send off to editors.

Get rolling now: take some ideas from the questions above and formulate 3-4 story ideas. Don't worry—these can be at the “idea” stage. As class progresses, you'll be working on these ideas further.