Writer’s Autobiography
Chris Potts, Writing 1, Spring 2003

Requirements
— At least 3 pages long (you are welcome to write more)
— Rough draft due at the start of class on April 7
— Final draft due at the start of class on April 9

The goal
I want to get to know you as a writer. I am going to read these pieces as though I were listening to you relate your story to me over coffee. The more detailed and carefully developed your piece is, the better I will be able to understand where you are coming from as a writer.

Some questions to get you started
Please do not simply answer these questions in turn, and do not feel bound by them. They are merely ways of getting started. Tell your story, working in answers to some or all of them in as natural a manner as you can.

1. What is the first personal experience with writing that you can recall?
2. What is the finest piece of writing (essay, poem, song, letter, e-mail, etc.) you have ever produced? What makes this piece so impressive?
3. Have you ever felt extremely discouraged by a writing assignment (or an experience with writing)?
4. What is your greatest strength as a writer?
5. What are your weaknesses as a writer?
6. What piece of writing that you’ve read do you most wish you had authored yourself, because it is so beautiful / powerful / persuasive / . . .)? (This could be anything from a line of poetry to a speech to an entire oeuvre.)
7. What physical sensations do you feel while writing?
8. What emotions do you experience while writing?
9. What emotions do you feel when asked to write (by a teacher, friend, . . .)?
10. Are you an experienced artist in some other medium?

On Monday, we’re going to attempt to find ways to incorporate insights and ideas from the assigned reading into our Writer’s Autobiographies. You’re welcome to begin doing this in the first draft.