Dear WR121 Students,

I’m pleased to introduce myself and encourage you to do the same in a letter of introduction to me. As your writing instructor, I’d like to tell you a little bit about myself, about my history at Linn-Benton Community College, about my reading and writing processes, and my goals for this term.

I’ve been teaching at Linn-Benton Community College for the past ten years. I’ve been teaching writing and literature off and on for the past twenty-five years, since I was a graduate student at the University of Florida. In between teaching and parenting, I’ve also worked as a bookstore clerk, an editor, and a book-review columnist for a small newspaper. I’ve been writing for as long as I can remember, since grade school really, but I became serious about it in college and since then have written essays, poetry, short stories. Some of my writing has been published, which makes me very happy. It means that the things I feel and think and write about have an audience, a community. Writing is about community, after all. Our community will be our class, our friends and family, and perhaps the college population.

As your writing instructor, I should explain that my writing process has changed considerably over the years. I’ve altered my writing habits to fit my family; I’ve worked technology into the last stages of my writing; I’ve taught myself over the years how to squeeze writing time into each complicated day. Writing is remarkably worthwhile. Of course it is serious business and to excel one has to work hard. But writing is fun, too, and can be liberating, can show us what we really think and who we really are.

As I’ve worked on my writing processes over the years, I’ve also worked on my reading process, one that ensures I get the most meaning from the text, whatever I’m reading. In addition to reading for my writing and literature classes, I enjoy reading poetry, contemporary fiction, and political essays. My all-time favorite writers are Virginia Woolf, Richard Ford, and poet Billy Collins. I love a variety of subject matter when it’s written with style and imagination. Good writers in any genre tell good stories, and in the process of reading these stories, we learn about the world and about ourselves.

Throughout the term, I’ll get excited right along with you about writing projects, and perhaps I’ll join you as a writer. My main goal in WR121 this term is to help you develop your best reading and writing strategies. I’m really looking forward to working with you.