

Engl 96IQ: Board Games (MUSE), Fall 2009
Journal 1: Letter to Future Self
500 Words, Due

Imagine receiving a letter from the future, written by yourself – written, say, on the day you graduate from San José State University? Your future self could tell you so many things about your college years that your present self would be interested to find out, such as the friends you will make, the experiences you will have, the classes you will like the best, the major you will graduate with, and so on. But it might be almost as interesting for that future self to get a letter from you in which you explain to yourself how it all began, because by the time you do graduate you may have forgotten some of your initial hopes and plans for your college education. Write that letter now, and keep a copy of it until you can deliver it to your future self, when you are a senior and ready to graduate. Then you will have a chance then to reflect on the things you have accomplished and the changes you have experienced, and you might even try to reply back to your present self (though we can't promise that one will be delivered).

Of course, to write a letter to the person you will be then, you need to think about the person you are now. What, for example, do you think constitutes “success” in college, and why? What will mean “happiness” in personal life and career after college, and why? These are huge, complex subjects, so to help you get started here are two shorter questions to consider, before you begin writing that letter to your future self.

First, how do you think the background you have now (including personal experiences and interests, as well as education), will help you adapt and succeed at San José State University?

Second, how do you think your San José State University experiences (including courses, clubs, relationships, and other activities) will help you to become a “future self” you can admire?

Finally, write that letter to your future self. Make it around 500 words in length, or about two typed pages. Reflect on who you are now and who you imagine you will become, as well as the path you will need to follow to get there. Try to be as specific as possible about your assumptions, your desires, and your goals in all areas of life, but spend most of your time discussing those that relate directly to your education and career. Most of all, write about what is important to you, now, as you begin your college career, so that your future self will be recognize the personal truth of your message.