**Ethics Discussion**

[**202510 Spring: ST: Writing about Food (991)**](https://blackboard.ualr.edu/webapps/blackboard/execute/courseMain?course_id=_249382_1)

All pieces should have an ethical background. The context, goal, and target audience of a piece of writing greatly influence the writer's obligation to address the ethics of the subject matter. Although writers have an obligation to consider the ramifications and consequences of their words, particularly when addressing moral or ethical issues, there are differences in how they approach this duty.

Integrity and Accountability: When writing about delicate topics, authors should be mindful of the moral ramifications of their decisions. This involves making certain that their portrayal of matters is impartial, equitable, and well investigated. A writer has an obligation to refrain from deceiving or controlling their audience when discussing ethics, whether overtly or covertly.

Awareness of the Audience: Writing has the power to influence public opinion, refute presumptions, and spark significant discussions. Authors who address ethical issues, whether directly or indirectly, are contributing to this greater discussion and have the potential to affect readers' perceptions and reactions to these problems.

Personal Belief System: A writer's approach to a subject will unavoidably be influenced by their own ideas and biases, but it is ethically required to recognize and consider these biases. When it is appropriate, being open and honest about one's viewpoint enables readers to interact with the work more critically and intelligently, increasing their awareness of any potential ethical issues.

In "Consider the Lobster," David Foster Wallace addresses ethics in a sophisticated and thought-provoking way, particularly in his analysis of the morality of eating lobsters and even the cruel way they are prepared. Because it is insightful, probing, and examines challenging realities, Wallace's essay is a powerful example of how ethics can be woven into a narrative without adopting a didactic stance. His approach to ethics can be analyzed in a number of significant ways. Wallace used the following techniques to raise ethical awareness.

Approaching Ethical Issues Subtly:

A seemingly innocent examination of the Maine Lobster Festival, a well-known occasion that honors lobsters as a food, opens Wallace's essay. He swiftly moves from recounting the incident to posing a more profound moral query, though: What does it mean to murder an animal for food, especially when it is boiling alive? It is an ethical investigation rather than a sermon since this deceptive method enables readers to face the moral dilemma head-on.

Engaging Through The Use of Humor and Satire:

Wallace's distinctive sense of humor is a major component of the ethical investigation. He makes fun of how society romanticizes food culture, the lobster festival, and even the lobster directly through satire. But this humor is more than just amusement; it also discreetly highlights the morality of eating animals and the fundamental silliness of our treatment of them. Wallace challenges readers to think about the moral treatment of lobsters as well as the moral ramifications of people treating animals like food by making the lobster into a sort of character.

Engagement Audience w/Different Ethical Perspectives:

Wallace doesn't offer a biased opinion on the morality of eating lobsters. Rather, he carefully considers other viewpoints. He addresses the scientific perspective on whether lobsters experience pain, the culinary heritage, and the cultural significance of lobsters. He also discusses the background of animal intake by humans. Wallace's refusal to oversimplify or reduce the topic to a dichotomy of good and evil is demonstrated by this multidimensional approach, which also highlights the complexity of ethical dilemmas.

 Engaging the Reader's Conscience:

Wallace appeals to the reader's conscience with his philosophical reflections and thorough explanations of the lobster-cooking procedure. He explains how lobsters may feel pain and the moral unease that results from this understanding. By doing so, he encourages readers to reflect on their own values and assumptions about the morality of consuming animals. Wallace doesn't offer easy answers, but rather opens the door for a deeper, ongoing ethical reflection, which is a key element of responsible writing.

Though I believe writers do not always have to explicitly discuss the ethics of their subject, they do have a responsibility to consider the moral implications of what they write and to approach their subject matter with integrity and accountability, audience awareness, and a personal belief system accountability. Writing can be a powerful tool for ethical reflection, and how writers engage with those ethical dimensions can significantly influence the cultural and social conversations surrounding their work.

Document Design Description for Rhetoric and Writing Senior Portfolio

1. Overview

In this senior portfolio, I have carefully curated a collection of my best work throughout my academic journey in Rhetoric and Writing. The document design reflects my understanding of rhetoric, audience, and purpose, ensuring that each piece is showcased clearly and effectively. The layout balances visual appeal with readability, guiding the viewer through the content seamlessly.

2. Cover Page

The cover page features a clean, modern design with a minimalist aesthetic. It includes my name, the title "Senior Portfolio," and the date. The design elements are subtle, with a focus on typography to create a professional and polished look. A small, relevant graphic or logo representing Rhetoric and Writing (if desired) is placed in the corner to maintain a scholarly tone.

3. Table of Contents

The table of contents follows the cover page, providing a clear roadmap of the portfolio. It is organized into sections that represent the different aspects of my writing journey (e.g., "Research Papers," "Creative Works," "Reflective Essays," "Writing Samples"). Each entry is hyperlinked for easy navigation in the digital version, making it user-friendly.

4. Section Layouts

Each section of the portfolio is clearly labeled and divided, with a consistent format throughout. Sections are separated by pages that feature a distinct, but cohesive, header.

Research Papers: This section includes analytical and argumentative papers, each presented with an introduction that sets the context and a brief reflection on the writing process.

Creative Works: Short stories, poetry, or creative nonfiction pieces, with a layout that emphasizes clarity and flow.

Reflective Essays: These writings are accompanied by an introspective layout that encourages the reader to engage with my thought process and development as a writer.

5. Typography & Font Choice

The font choices are intentional and professional. I use serif fonts for body text (like Times New Roman or Georgia) for readability, and sans-serif fonts (such as Arial or Helvetica) for headings and subheadings to provide a clean and modern contrast. Font sizes are consistent, with larger sizes for titles and headings to ensure hierarchy and easy navigation.

6. Margins and Spacing

I have employed standard 1-inch margins around the entire document for a balanced look. The body text is spaced 1.5 lines, allowing for readability and a professional appearance. Section titles are clearly defined with additional spacing, ensuring that each part of the portfolio is visually separated.

7. Visual Elements

Visual elements are sparingly used but strategically placed for maximum impact. Relevant images, charts, or graphics are included when necessary to enhance the writing, such as infographics for research projects or visual storytelling elements in creative works. These visuals support my written work and are designed to maintain the flow without overpowering the text.

8. Consistency and Professionalism

Overall, the document maintains a consistent visual language. Each section follows the same design principles of alignment, contrast, and spacing to ensure a cohesive look across the entire portfolio. I’ve used a balanced mix of white space and text to avoid overcrowding and keep the document visually appealing.

9. Digital and Print Considerations

The document is designed with both print and digital formats in mind. For digital versions, links are incorporated for easy navigation, and the file size is optimized to ensure fast loading times. The print version retains all the key design elements, ensuring readability and aesthetic appeal.

10. Final Reflections

This portfolio is not only a showcase of my writing but also a reflection of my growth as a writer. The design choices reflect my understanding of the role of presentation in communication. The cohesive design allows the content to shine, ensuring that my writing is presented clearly and professionally to my audience.