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### Setting Goals Paper

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*CUNY La Guardia Community College*

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## Setting Goals Paper

Silvia Lin Hanick

LIF 101, Liberal Arts: Social Sciences and Humanities

### Abstract

This assignment was designed to help students bring together the multiple threads of the First Year Seminar; students contextualize their past, present, and future stories within their personal, academic, and career goals. This assignment asked students to revise the writing they've done in past ePortfolio reflections, incorporate outside information from a range of sources, and plan out a realistic path for achieving their goals at LaGuardia and beyond.

Students are prepared for this assignment throughout the semester:

- In week 2, we talk about the value of the personal narrative via the About Me reflection for ePortfolio. Why does your past matter? How does writing about your past help faculty and advisors guide you toward success at LaGuardia? This assignment and conversation prepares students for the “Personal Goal” section of the Setting Goals paper.
- In week 4, we go over career planning, including an assignment that asks students to research education requirements, typical daily tasks, work environments, and salary. How do you balance your dreams with practical concerns? What kinds of jobs (or internships) should you seek out before you're eligible for the job you really want? This assignment and conversation prepares students for the “Career” section of the Setting Goals paper.
- In week 5, we cover how to pick a major and in week 8, we discuss transfer planning. Assignments in these weeks ask students to gather concrete and practical information about their chosen major and senior colleges. Are there more math classes than you expected for this major? Will your transfer credits count? What percentage of financial need do your selected senior colleges cover? Does the way the college is portrayed by students on social media match up with brochures? These assignments and conversations prepare students for the “Academic” section of the Setting Goals paper.
- Students are also prepared for the research component of this paper in week 7, when we go over where to locate various types of information and how to use it via summary, paraphrase, or direct quotation.

This assignment is completed over several weeks of the course:

- In week 6, we went over the Setting Goals paper, including discussion about what makes a goal a S.M.A.R.T. goal. At the end of the Studio Hour for that week, students emailed me the three goals they were planning to address.
- In week 7, students turned in rough drafts of the paper. For the rough draft, students were required to have the goal and story written; the research section for each goal did not have to be complete.
- In week 9, students engaged in a peer-review of each other's papers, offering advice about how to make their goals more concrete, and what could make their stories more engaging. Students received their classmate's comments along with my comments.

- The final draft of their paper was due in week 11.

The assignment was graded in sections:

- 10% Rough Draft
- 3% Peer-Review
- 10% Final Draft

LIF 101

Professor Silvia Lin Hanick

### Setting Goals Paper

**230 points**

**Requirement: 1,000 words (around 4 pages)**

The theme of this class is “Informed Narratives.” Throughout the semester, you’ve been asked to tell your story in a number of ways. Who are you? Why are you here at LaGuardia? When should you ask for help? What comes afterwards? As we have explored the ways by which you answer these types of questions, it should be clear that there is rarely one right place to find one right answer. Instead, you must put together information from a number of sources. For instance, it isn’t enough to go to an advisor and be assigned your classes for next semester. You must also consider and understand Degree Audit, the Required Core, the Flexible Core, your major, the class schedule, Academic Policies, and more. The most efficient and empowered path to achieving your goals is always the well informed path.

**In this paper, you will set three S.M.A.R.T. goals for yourself - one academic goal, one career goal, and one personal goal.**

You will frame these goals in the context of your own personal stories. You can expand on what you’ve written in your About Me assignment, Career page, Transfer Planning, or any other assignment in this class or in your Studio Hour.

**What is a S.M.A.R.T. goal?**

- Specific - identifies a specific action or event that will take place
  - *(I will be more involved on campus)*
- Measurable - outcome should be quantifiable / can be counted
  - *(I will join one club and attend 2 campus events)*
- Achievable - should be attainable given available resources
  - *(I will pick a club that meets on Wed. because I work the other days of the week)*
- Realistic - should require you to stretch beyond your routine, but allow for success
  - *(I will try to take a leadership role in the club by next semester)*

- Timely - should state the time period in which it will be accomplished
  - (*I will start next Semester*)

#### For your Personal Goal

- Goal Examples: improving time management, supporting family members, getting a driver's license, traveling to a different country, making new friends, joining a club.
- Story: Tell one story from your PAST that explains why this goal is important to you.
- Research: Ask one person you trust for advice, and then look up AT LEAST ONE internet source (magazine, newspaper, YouTube video, etc) that gives you information about how to achieve this goal. Summarize what you find out in your paper.

#### For your Academic Goal

- Goal Examples: transferring to a specific senior college, getting into a specific program, passing all of your classes, getting into the Honor's Society, finishing your Associate's degree in a specific amount of time.
- Story: Tell one story about your PRESENT self. Why are you here? Why does this goal matter to you?
- Research: Using LaGuardia Community College's website and other college websites, gather information from AT LEAST ONE website about what you need to do to achieve this goal. Be specific about requirements and deadlines. Summarize what you find out in your paper.

#### For your Career Goal

- Goal Examples: being in a particular profession, having a job that supports your lifestyle, getting a certain internship
- Story: Tell one story about your FUTURE self. What are you doing in 10, 20, or 30 years? What kind of career did you have? Are you happy? Why?
- Research: Using one Library Database, gather information about your career goal. If you have a specific career in mind, research the education, skills, and experience you need. Or, research the kind of problems people in this career solve. Find, read, and summarize AT LEAST ONE article from a library database. Consider using:
  - Ferguson's Career Guidance Center
  - Academic Search Complete

#### **Format**

Double spaced, Time New Roman font. 1 inch margins. Minimum of 1,000 words (about 4 pages). Citations for all three goals go at the end of the paper and do not count as a part of the 1,000 word minimum.

#### **Due dates**

10/19, Thursday: 3 hard copies of the first draft of paper due at the start of class

10/30, Monday: Peer review of papers. MUST be in class to get credit (30 points)

11/16, Thursday: Hard copy final draft of paper due at the start of class