Your Task: Write a personal narrative about a moment in your life when a belief was formed, challenged or changed. Use the narrative techniques discussed in class to develop your narrative. Please note that your belief should be one you would be willing and comfortable sharing with your family and peers.

Guidelines:
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- Tell a story and be specific. Think of your own experience, work, and family, and tell of the things you know that no one else does. Your story need not be heart-warming or gut wrenching—it can even be funny—but it should be real.
- Your narrative should be between 500 and 600 words.
- Name your belief: If you can’t name it in a sentence or two, your essay might not be about belief.
- Write in words and phrases that are comfortable for you to speak. We recommend you read your essay aloud to yourself several times, and each time edit it and simplify it until you find the words, tone, and story that truly echo your belief and the way you speak.
- Be positive. Please avoid preaching or editorializing. Tell us what you do believe, not what you don’t believe. Avoid speaking in the editorial “we.” Make your essay about you; speak in the first person.
- Use narrative techniques to tell your story such as:
  - An introduction that establishes your story and characters
  - Dialogue, pacing, description, and reflection.
  - Precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language
  - A variety of techniques to show shifts of time and setting within a sequence of events so they build to a coherent whole.
  - A conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or realized over the course of the essay.

Process:
- Brainstorm, prewrite and organize your ideas before drafting
- Draft and revise written work
- Edit and produce final piece

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