

Profile Assignment – *The Postmortal*

A **profile** is a portrait of a person, place, or event. The purpose of a profile is to entertain the reader through revealing something interesting or noteworthy about the subject. A profile can either make the reader aware of an unfamiliar subject or reveal something interesting or unusual about a familiar subject. This type of essay typically involves doing “field work,” which is a kind of research that involves getting information about the subject through direct experience (i.e. interviewing the person, visiting the place, or attending the event).

Features of a Profile

✚ Is of a compelling subject.

- The subject may be new to readers or may be a familiar subject presented in a new way.

✚ Has a thesis that clearly identifies the “angle of interest.”

✚ Includes background information that helps to establish the importance or significance of the subject.

- For example, a profile of an event might describe how the event originated, or a profile of a person might describe what led that person to do what he/she now does.

✚ Provides a firsthand account that follows from direct experience and typically includes field work (on the ground research).

✚ Includes plenty of engaging details that bring the subject to life and help the reader to understand the significant or interest of the subject.

✚ Has a clear and logical pattern of organization.

FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT:

One of the central themes of *The Postmortal* is the fear of aging and death and the dream of eternal youth.

For this assignment, choose a local subject according to one of the following prompts and write an engaging profile:

- Profile a unique place that provides care for the elderly or meets some need of the aging population (social, mental, physical, spiritual);
- Profile an elderly person who continues to pursue a compelling interest;
- Profile an event that significantly addresses some aspect of aging or the elderly population;

- Profile a place, event, or person from the perspective of youth engagement with the question of aging or the elderly.

Your profile should have the following qualities:

1. An introduction that introduces the subject to be profiled, provides any necessary background information, and indicates the angle of interest.
2. A body made up of paragraphs that develop this angle of interest through providing engaging details.
3. An effective conclusion that restates the dominant impression (the angle of interest) and wraps up the profile in an interesting way.
4. The essay should be **750-1000** words in length (4 - 5 pages) and should be in the proper format (Times New Roman 12 pt. font, double-spaced, with 1” margins all the way around).

NOTE: Please follow proper formatting guidelines.