

English Department Writing Sample for College Writing, Fall 2012

Please write the following information at the top of your sample:

Your name and student ID number

Your course and section number

Today's date and the time limit you were given

According to your professor's instructions, please write a brief essay in response to the prompt below. Develop your answer as fully as possible in the time allotted, and please use your best English, as this will help us determine if the course you are in is the one that will best meet your needs.

In *Townie*, Andre Dubus III describes how he watched TV and movies to escape his difficult life. Andre, who often felt powerless, imagined himself to be like the tough characters he saw on the screen, men who could protect their loved ones from violence. This is understandable, since we have all aspired to be like our favorite fictional figures at some point in our lives. Think for a moment about a character from TV, film, or a favorite book whom you aspired to be like, either now or when you were younger. Explain what makes this character so admirable and why you wanted to be more like this person. (This character may not be realistic—or even human—and need not be a “good guy.”)

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