Introduction

Writing is a process. From first setting our pen to paper - or our fingers to the keyboard - until our final product, we writers are asked to create, revise, redo, and critically explore our writing until it has reached its furthest potential. As first year college students, many are asked to write papers for disciplines they’ve never studied or research papers they’ve never before been asked to complete. Each of these experiences will contribute to a writer’s knowledge and generate a greater understanding of writing and versatility in the writing process.

The essays in this journal represent first year students who have undertaken new projects and explored new writing styles, and emerged as more well rounded writers and more capable individuals. These essays exemplify first year writing, illustrating how to overcome common pitfalls encountered when writing outside one’s comfort zone. Through these sample pieces this journal hopes to help students through their first year at Denison University. By using these resources and those provided by the Writing Center, we hope to ease your adjustment to college life and better prepare you for the year to come.

-Tori Couch, Writing Center Consultant