I hope to achieve three goals with this assignment:

1. to get to know you better;
2. to obtain a short sample of your writing;
3. to give you a little challenge in formal writing.

Choose an activity that you enjoy and that you think says something about your interests, who you are. (Therefore I’m not talking about generic activities that almost everyone likes, but something a bit more selective.) It could be a hobby (stamp collecting, beekeeping), but it could also be something like taking long walks by a stream near your home, or reading aloud to an elderly relative. Write a one- or two-page (double-spaced) description of the activity that explains why it is so enjoyable. Write formally (whatever you understand by this term). Your goal is to help the reader understand why this hobby or activity is enjoyable.

**Here’s the hard part:** don’t use the first person singular! This might seem to make the assignment almost impossible. At first it seems unreasonable to expect you to describe your passion for paper quilling if you are not allowed to write things like, “I learned how to quill from my grandmother” or “I’ll never forget my first completed quilling project.” However, it can be done! Statements like these are perfectly acceptable:

“Quilling can be as simple as curling a strip of paper into a tube, yet these curled strips of paper can be formed into fields of wildflowers, flocks of flamingos, even human faces”.

“The clean crispness of the paper strip seems to be at odds with the soft delicacy of the final, lace-like design.”

“The sense of satisfaction at seeing the completed Mona Lisa, all done in quilled paper, is surely comparable to what Da Vinci felt after completing his masterpiece.”

We will discuss these papers in class before you hand them in. For instance, it would be interesting to learn what different people mean by the phrase “formal writing.” I might ask for volunteers to read paragraphs aloud.