

Essay # 1 – Definition – and the development of a Semester Topic for Academic Writing.

Using your Experiences and Interests Inventory, draw up a list of academic topics you might be interested in investigating through writing and research this semester.

1. Look over your answers, and your professor's comments, and categorize your responses, trying to group all, or nearly all of them into groups, where the items you list in each group have something in common with one other.
2. List some terms that cover the categories shown by the groupings.

Example: JBW is a some-what fictitious student who filled out an EX&I Inventory.

1. JBW has recently watched *Dark Knight* and *Wall-E* and has used both as illustrations in his work as chaplain at a military school.
2. He is a member of the Air National Guard and serves as a chaplain assistant. He might be deployed to Iraq in the coming year, and he is planning on going on for seminary study so that he can become a full chaplain in the Air Force.
3. He attends church in his town, with occasional visits to another church in West Columbia, while a student at CIU. He helps out with the college class, leading whenever he is asked to, and enjoys any chance he can have to preach/teach from the Bible.

1. JBW commutes to CIU.
2. If he could build anything with his hands, he'd like to finish working on his own design for a fuel cell.
3. If he had a \$1000 he would purchase and install a hydrogen fuel supplement system to his late model American car because it has the potential to increase his gas milage up to 35 mpg, and he and his father would work on it together.
4. If he had a weekend to do anything he wanted, he would drive up to Massachusetts to meet one of the leading developers of hydrogen fuel systems because he has spoken to him on the phone and had some great e-mail exchanges, and he would really like to meet him in person.
5. If he could visit any museum, he'd like to go to the alternative fuels museum near Oak Ridge, TN, because he is really interested in alternative fuels for cars.
6. JBW really enjoys working on cars because it is something his dad and he can enjoying doing together.
7. He has been reading anything and everything he can find on alternative fuels and fuel cell technology, especially from the internet.

1. JBW has traveled to Europe with a football team he helped coach. He's also traveled to the Dominican Republic with a youth mission team.
2. He loves football but doesn't play much any more.
3. JBW's major at CIU is Youth Ministries.

1. JBW hasn't read many books twice, but he really enjoys reading self-help and practical books such as *The Five Love Languages*.
2. He really dislikes the family tensions he grew up with and the divorces and broken relationships which still come up each time he is with any of his family members, who are scattered from Florida to N.C.
3. JBW would really miss a Christian family he has become very close to if he had to stop visiting them for the next 6 months because they have become his family, where he is welcomed and loved.

Ben's answers could fairly easily be put into categories that would lead to terms like:

Military chaplaincy

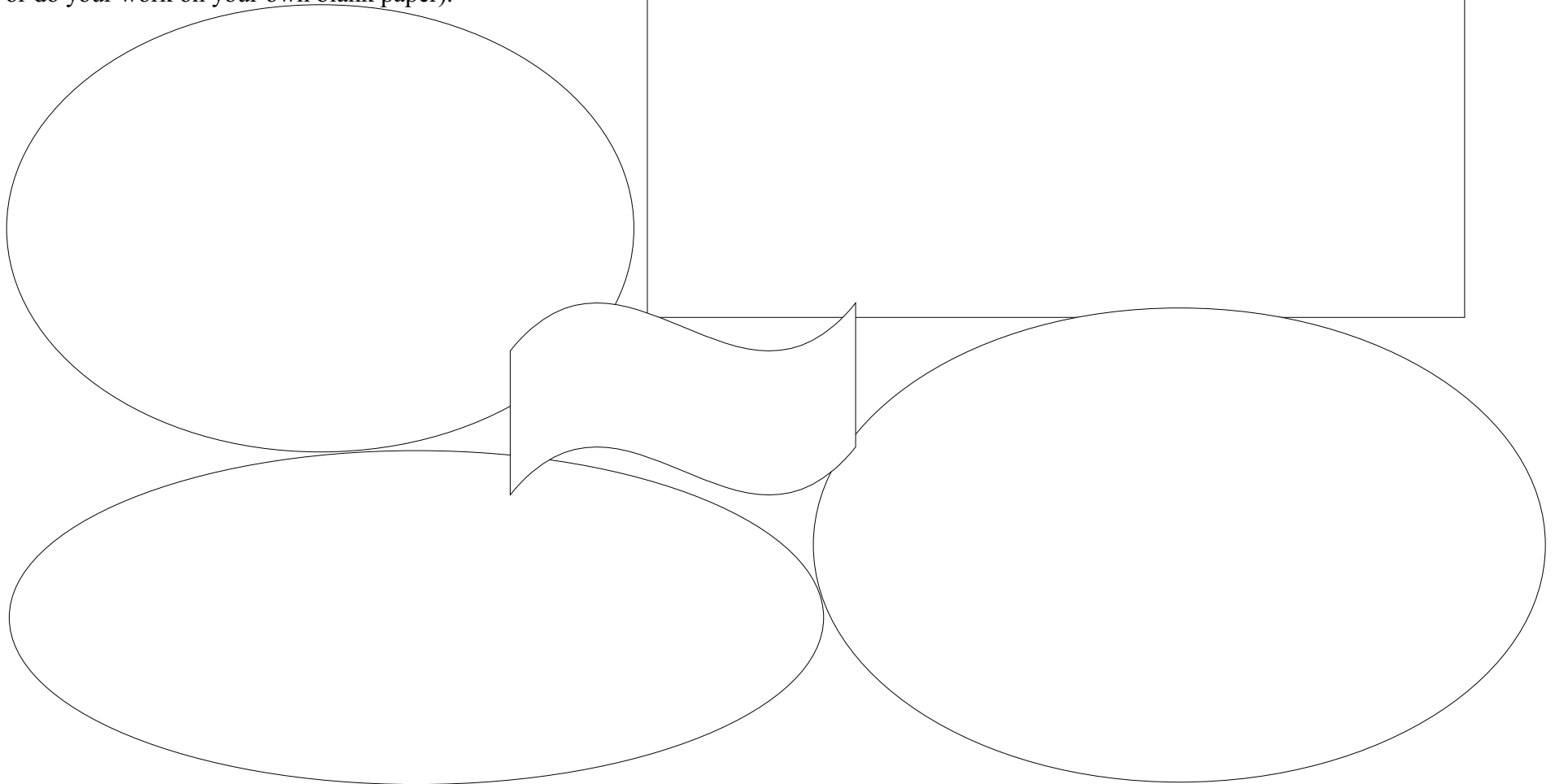
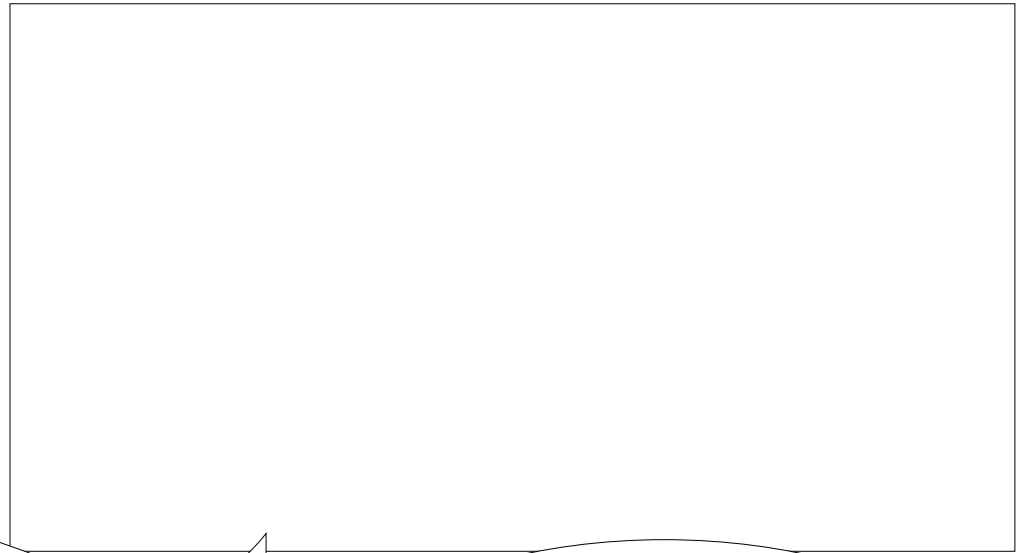
Dysfunctional family relationships

Alternative Fuels

Sport ministry

Now do the same with your answers.

Group your answers together: (use the shapes if they help, or do your work on your own blank paper).



List of terms that fit these categories – what are some broad terms which describe all or most of the items you have grouped together? _____
