**Anderson/ENGL 301**

**Partner Interview Assignment**

**Overview**
So this assignment is totally Dr. Lee Torda’s idea, but I really like the way it can bring us together as a class and serves as an example of how assignments will go in the class. It also connects you to another person in the class and to learn something about one another because you will be spending the next 15 weeks together.

Then there are stories. Stories are sometimes overlooked in academia, but as Cherokee writer Thomas King tells us, “the truth about stories is, that’s all we are” (King *The Truth about Stories*). Our stories make us who we are and influence the ways we act, react, participate in any situation—even a class.

Once you've completed this assignment, the partner profile will be posted to our class website. Each of you should provide a picture that represents you.

**Details**
So to write this profile, you need to get information—both facts and a good story. Then you will gather these together in a mini-essay.

First, get some facts about your partner—name, where they were born, favorite things, not-so favorite things, hobbies, jobs they’ve had, and even things like a taste or smell they can’t stand. Of course there are other things that you will also think to ask as you collect these facts.

Second—and this is a bit more challenging--, get a couple of stories that really gives some insights to who your partner is. What is a best or worst story about school experiences? What adventures or activities have they experienced? What hopes, dreams? What captivates them?

In all, you want to tell a story about your partner that tells others in the class about who they are, what they care about, and what matters to them.

Now, you will write a 250-word mini-essay to introduce your partner. That’s not very long, so you want to focus on one story or maybe combining stories. The task is to create a thesis—the main thing you learned about your partner—and how this story proves the thesis.

You will have class time to work on the introduction and we will workshop the writing. Then it will be posted to the class profiles. Each of you will also submit an image to accompany the intro.

You'll have two class periods to work on this with your partner. You'll be randomly assigned. You'll have a chance to do a little workshopping on your paper. And, as I said above, I'll post it to our class website, and ask you for an image to accompany the profile that your partner writes about you.