Syracuse Veterans’ Writing Group

October 2011 Writing Prompts

Profiling:

1) Write a profile of someone you served with or met while in the service. Describe their appearance, gestures, movements, habits, and the way this person spoke or interacted with others. If it helps, puts this person into a scene and reveal details through the action, interactions, and dialogue embedded in the scene.

When you have finished with the profile, step back and reflect on why you chose this person for a profile. How is this person’s profile connected to you, to your story?

Writing

2) Why write? Why tell stories? What motivates you to write and represent your experiences in the military? As you consider this, think about the fact that across the country there are many veterans’ writing groups forming up and publishing their work on the web, in books, and edited collections. We’ve been contacted by veterans forming such groups, inviting our members to submit stories to their anthologies, etc. So, from your perspective, what is going on here with this ritual of storytelling and writing?

You might start this piece with the following phrase: “I write because…”

This might be a piece we would want to put on our website to help viewers understand the purpose and mission of our group.