

## ***Where are you from?***

A popular question people like to ask is, “Where are you from?” While this question may seem very straightforward to some, for others, it means thinking of hardships, transitions, nationality, and/or immigration. Where you are from may be small (your bedroom) or large (your state or country of origin) or more communally associated, like a religious group or cultural organization.

Asking about a person’s home can be a question marked with curiosity and a desire for connections, wondering if you share a common state, city, or neighborhood. At the same time, it can also be a question that marks one as not seeming to belong (“Where are you *really* from?”).

Where are **you** from?  
Where is home to **you**?

We invite you to consider these questions, as well as connections to them. And, if this prompt calls to mind experiences you have had with not feeling ‘from a place’ or that no place has felt ‘like home,’ we invite you to write about that. Lastly, but most importantly, if you have experienced not having an address to call home or if you have been unhoused (or without a place that others would recognize as a home), know that you are more than welcome to write about those experiences.

We are providing some prompts below to support your exploration of this topic. You are not expected to respond to all (or any) of these questions. Rather, we hope that they may inspire you and your writing. Additionally, your response can be in whatever style or genre of writing you prefer — expository, persuasive, narrative, descriptive, and/or creative.

### **We invite you to think and write about home and where you are from:**

- Write about a real or imagined place you would like to be from.
- Write about a time when you felt like “yes! I am home.”
- What does it mean to be from someplace or a place?
- What place, person, or thing makes you feel at home?

### **We invite you to think and write about what it means to not feel from a place:**

- Write about a time when you felt “This is no longer home to me.”
- Write about a time when you struggled between two (or more) homes/worlds.
- Write about a moment when you observed someone not having a safe and liveable space to call home.

### **We invite you to think about how home has or will change for you:**

- Write about a time when you changed homes and the benefits and/or challenges that came from that.
- Write about your dreams for where you would like to call home in the future.

- Write about the possibility of a world where everyone has a place they are from — a place that is safe, secure, and welcoming.

To support you in thinking more about the prompt, we suggest exploring the following resources:

- [Where I'm From](#) (Poetry Assignment)
  - Note: This can help you to help you begin, but we ask that you not submit a poem that uses this template.
- [Quotes about home](#)
- [If There's One Thing I May Tell You \(poem\)](#)
- Ted Talk: [Don't Ask Me Where I'm From, Ask Where I'm a Local](#)
- Ted Talk: [Pico Iyer: Where is home? | TED Talk](#) (The first two minutes touch on the challenges that some might face in naming where home is.)

Your submissions need to meet the following guidelines:

- Up to 10 pages
- Double-spaced
- 1-inch margins
- 11-point font or larger in a legible font (such as Arial, Times New Roman, Calibri, or Verdana)

Additionally, please:

- Include page numbers in the upper right-hand corner of each page.
- Add your name in the upper left-hand corner of each page.
- Do **not** include the name of your school.