

The Soloist: Topics for Writing Assignments

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1. Write in third person what you believe your purpose is. What are you meant for? (p. 7)
2. Describe one of your greatest joys. How do you plan on incorporating your great joy into your career or major? (p. 10)
3. Write an article about yourself, written in third person. It needs to be in a positive tone, describing any obstacles or hurdles you've overcome and accomplishments you've achieved. Pretend it'll be published on the front page of the Sunday *L.A. Times*. What do you want the world to know about you? No obstacle, hurdle, or accomplishment is too small.
4. In *The Soloist*, Nathaniel finds his solace and escape in music. How do you escape? What talents do you possess that help you escape? How do you use other people's talents and gifts (music, art, etc.) to help you? What benefit do you gain from escaping into your world? What opportunities do you miss out on when you do?
5. Which of the characters in *The Soloist* do you identify most with? The least with? Why?