**Diagnostic Essay – Your Journey to HCC**

**Length and Format:**

* Typed, double-spaced
* Multi-paragraph essay including introduction, body paragraphs and conclusion

2 full pages

**Purpose:**

* To identify writing strengths and weaknesses
* For the instructor to learn more about individual students
* For the students to begin to identify academic goals and plans

**Topic:** We have all taken different paths to get to HCC and shared those paths with each other through our lifeline drawings. Now, I would like you to write your journey to HCC. In addition to discussing your path to HCC, you may also consider why you are attending college, and more specifically, why you are attending Howard Community College. You may also consider your academic goals are while you are here.

Of course, the other goal of this essay is to have you demonstrate the best writing you can do at this point so we can do an accurate assessment of what you need to learn and practice in order to write academic essays. You should reflect on what you know about well-written essays and be sure to include these elements in your essay. In particular, make certain that you have meaty, well-developed and well-organized paragraphs.

**Method:** Remember that you cannot start writing with a blank mind; you will have to spend some time thinking about the topic and jotting down ideas before you start writing. The back of this sheet is an excellent space to create a rough outline for yourself before you begin writing.