

Friday Project #4: Author Profile    Due: October 13

For this project, you will be compiling a detailed profile of Peter Hessler, which will be incorporated into the revision of paper #2.

1. Drawing upon the knowledge and skills acquired in Friday Project #3, use web resources to write a brief biography of Hessler—about 300 words.
2. Hessler has given a series of interviews on National Public Radio, most of them about his travels in China. Listen to at least one of these interviews—you can find them at [npr.org](http://npr.org). Write a brief summary of the interview (a paragraph). What effect does actually hearing Hessler have on your reading of his New Yorker essay?
3. Read one chapter from Oracle Bones or River Town, Hessler's books on China. These two books are on reserve in the library. Write a brief summary (a paragraph) of the chapter.
4. Based on your experience of Hessler's writing, now assess him as a writer. What are his strategies as a writer: how does he target his audience and tailor his writing to that audience? What does he do to achieve the goals of good writing as described by Linda Flower? How does he keep the reader moving through the essay/chapter? If you were to read more of Hessler's work, what sort of writing style (vocabulary, sentence and paragraph structure, use of specific details, etc—NOT topic) would you expect to find? You should devote several substantial paragraphs to answering item #4.
5. Include a list of WORKS CONSULTED, using the MLA citation format in your Keys for Writers.