I Am What I Am - Crafting Authentic Voice

Example #1

I am what I am. I am a mistake that was thought impossible, and I am loved, because sometimes the biggest mistakes are the ones you hold closest to your heart. I am what I am. I am a defining moment to a young girl almost a woman; a horror, a disbelief. I am a memory that holds no color, no substance. I am what I am. I am a life change, a 180. I am a dangerous projection. I am unannounced and undecorated. I am what I am. I am a casualty of heart’s warfare, a by-produce of immaturity, a waste product. I am unwanted, a regret. I am what I am.

I am love, baby soft and peachy sweet. I am joy and I am surprise, I am a dream that plays over and over. I am what I am. I am a thousand castles, a thousand cracks. I am what I am. I am fragile and I am persistent. I am a life project and a tax write-off. I am what I am. I am a daughter, a sister, a dependent, a burden, a bargain package, a done deal. I am what I am.

I am the collaborative effort of many hearts, love’s masterpiece, the knowledge that some of life’s greatest gifts are the ones we aren’t expecting. I am what I am.

-Andrea Bailey, College Junior

Example #2

I am what I am. I am Mariana Annette Romano. I am a natural blonde so don’t ask. I am the granddaughter of an Italian immigrant and no he wasn’t from the north and despite your stereotypes I do look Italian. I am what I am. I am a daughter, a dreamer, and an only child (and I hated it). It doesn’t mean that I am rotten and selfish, either. I am older than twenty-two but younger than thirty-five. I am what I am. I am an Ohio transplant to Evanston, Illinois, at the brink of a new life. I am Ohio River Valley, fields of Indiana corn, and college towns. I am a Hoosier grad. I am a former resident of New York City and Rome, Italy. I am a lover of stories and talking and late nights with my friends. I am an enthusiast of history, reading, and writing. I am an NPR junkie. I am a procrastinator who knows how to get her work done so don’t give me excuses but I am empathize with your plight. I am what I am. Listen to me and maybe I can help.

I am what I am. I am a rebel and a conformist. I am a supporter of radical ideas and a promoter of behavioral temperance. I am what I am. I am skeptical of exclusivity, but I want to belong. I am a woman who believes in equality and fairness. I am respectful of all people, but I expect respect and if you disdain common decency I will let you know even if I have never met you before. I am what I am. I am imperfect. I make mistakes, but I don’t like to be exploited for my frailties. I like only to have them pointed out so I may learn from my stumbles. I will treat you with the same courtesy.

I am what I am. I am a voyager of the world and of words. I am the spirit of Whitman, Dickinson, Fitzgerald, and Lee. I am the mouthpiece of Kingsolver, Smiley, Morrison, and Gibbons. I am a teacher who pushes her students to speak the rude truth, write, and think. I am the instructor, the facilitator, the learner. I am a believer of deadlines and keeping them and honesty when the work doesn’t come in. I am what I am. I am a disciplinarian if I need to be. A parent-caller and a referral writer, but only if my previous interventions leave me no choice. I am not one to harbor resentment, but I remember disappointment. I am what I am. I am a student’s loudest cheerleader or the person who will relentlessly nag you for fear you are giving up or copping out or unable to see the value in yourself and your efforts. I am a believer of integrity and expect you to have some. I am what I am. I am your English teacher. Accept it, or it will be a long year.

-Mariana Romano, Teacher

Example #3

I AM WHAT I AM
My name is April Rice. I grew up in Burke County, but have lived in Gaston County for about eighteen years. I have an older sister and a younger brother. My life contains many roles: I am a daughter, a sister, an aunt, a niece, a cousin, a friend, a wife, a mother to two boys, a student, and I was once a granddaughter. I have worked as an office manager, a paramedic, a correctional officer, and hope to become a teacher. Green is my favorite color and Sunday is my favorite day of the week. I love to take long tub baths in the dark while listening to soothing music. I am a military wife that is extremely patriotic and that has held the home-front together while my husband served his country at home and abroad.
I am what I am.

I am a believer in miracles; a dreamer of great things. I wish upon stars and dance in the rain. I live for adventure, but also enjoy quiet time by myself. I believe that our world really is a great place to live and grow and that our actions always ripple out to touch the lives of others. I feel that all things are possible and that it takes greater courage than strength to accomplish difficult things, but it is always worth the effort even when you do not succeed. I did not grow up in a perfect family nor was I able to have a perfect family for my own children to grow up in, but I believe that to be part of the human experience. I do not believe in the existence of the perfect family. I am a believer in forgiveness for I am always making mistakes. I am a believer of the powerfulness of my God and of His amazing grace.
I am what I am.

I enjoy reading, writing, soccer, making candles and old-fashioned lye soap, doing jig-saw puzzles, and making quilts. I am addicted to warm tea and chewing gum, but don’t want them both at the same time. I love all types of music though I do not play any musical instrument; my MP3 consists of rock, gospel, oldies, country, bluegrass, new age, rap, reggae, and heavy metal. I am competitive and always hate to lose. I strive for perfection, but very seldom feel that I come anywhere close to achieving it. I am proud of who I am. I am a hard worker and a hard person to live with, but my husband is a patient man. My boys, who are 23 and 18, know that I always demand a lot from them; therefore, they go to their father with troubles and to me with triumphs. I am a stickler for detail, but I am constantly trying to change that about myself. I wish to be laid-back and less demanding, but…
I am what I am.

I dislike green peas, hot weather, my weight, and negative attitudes. I love to watch it snow, but autumn is my favorite season of the year. I prefer to watch football than to cook on Sunday afternoons, but I make awesome spaghetti sauce and barbecue coleslaw. I cannot do math beyond adding/subtracting and multiplying/division, but I enjoy working with statistics. I love the Outer Banks, but only in winter. I prefer dogs over cats and I am fascinated by the life stories of Anne Frank and Helen Keller. I wish that I was fluent in American Sign Language and Spanish. I wish I knew how to play the cello. I believe that education is one of the few things in life that can never be taken from you when all material things in life can be lost in the blink of an eye. I also believe that the goal of education should be to cultivate society, not to reflect it.
I am a life-long learner;
I am April M. Rice.
I am what I am.