writing to reality
By: natasha stoper friedman

henry dumas, 1934 to 1968
age 33,
writes a letter to himself,
talks about
when he dies,
he wants to be remembered
for his
writing.

the circumstances are
unclear
but
but we know
we know that
as he was walking through
a turnstile,
a turnstile in a new york city train station,
his life ended.

how it happened
was shocking,
was disgusting,
fills people with rage,
with sympathy,
with frustration,
he
was shot
by a
new york city transit policeman.

afterward
his writer friends
at the party
toni morrison
threw for him
sitting and talking
about his achievements,
just as he wanted,
laughing and smiling
while crying
inside.

they were talking
about
his books
which
were
about racial tension,
about white supremacy,
even about science fiction,
they were talking
about his life,
not his
death.