

ESSAY 1: LITERACY NARRATIVE

Length: 750-1000 words

Due: 17 JUNE 2019 BY 11:59PM EASTERN

Submission Method: upload to iCollege submission folder

File Format: .doc or .docx ONLY

File Name: LASTNAME_E.docx

100 points possible

A Literacy Narrative is a special genre of memoir. Memoir, simply, is the story of some event of your life. When memoir is expanded to tell the story of an entire life, it transforms into biography (the story of a person's life told by someone else) or into autobiography (the story of a person's life told by that person). The Literacy Narrative focuses instead on the question of experiences of reading, writing, and speaking for the author. While there is a more narrow focus than in a memoir, the Literacy Narrative can encompass a wide variety of experiences. Do not feel that you must focus on learning to write in 1st grade! This paper should be the story of some general or specific incident in which reading, writing, or speaking affected your life. Remember the broad definition of literacy that we discussed in class!

Questions you can consider: (All are from the excellent website, *The Digital Archive of Literacy Narratives*, <http://www.thedaln.org/>, which has many resources available. We will watch and read a few sample literacy narratives from the DALN in preparation for this assignment.)

What is your literacy history? Where did you grow up or go to school? What literacy values did your family have? Do you remember reading anything in a newspaper or online that changed how you felt about the world? How, why, and when did you learn to write? What was your first experience with public speaking? Did you enjoy reading or dislike reading as a child or as an adult? Why or why not? Was the reading of holy texts important in your household or to you? What was/is your favorite book/poem/play? What does literacy mean to you as you embark upon your college career? What role do social media and/or cell phones have in your literacy practice today? Has a particular film (or the genre of film) significantly affected your life? Can you tell a story about a time when you felt illiterate? Have you ever felt ashamed of a literacy practice?

Keep in mind that you do not have to consider any of these questions; you may already have a great idea for your literacy narrative. Also keep in mind that there are probably thousands of other angles you could engage for your narrative. This is *your* story, and it should have some personal significance.

The bottom line:

This essay must be typed and formatted in the MLA 8th edition manner.

The essay should be 750-1000 words.

If you are going to use dialogue, be sure to properly format it and use it judiciously.

Outside sources are not allowed for this essay. (If there is an outside source you would like to use, chat with me about it before you do so.)

Come to class with TWO copies of your Literacy Narrative draft on 14 JUNE for peer review.

Learning Outcomes: 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, and 8

Assessment Rubric for Literacy Narrative Essay

	Absent/ Beginning (1)	Developing (2)	Competent/ Adequate (3)	Advanced/ Sophisticated (4)
Compelling and appropriate evidence from your past				
Specific details and effective storytelling				
Coherent organizational structure that supports focus				
Clear connection between who you are as a reader/ writer now and the experiences you highlight				
Strong sense of purpose and audience				
Grammar/ Mechanics (correctness and proofreading)				
MLA Formatting				
TOTAL				OUT OF 28