

Literacy Narrative: Essay 1 Assignment

Due Date: Saturday, September 3, 2016, before 10:59 pm

Audience: I am your audience for this essay.

Length Requirement: at least 400-600 words

Assignment: For this essay, your job is to introduce yourself as a writer. I am interested in knowing about the writing and reading experiences that you bring with you and about your strengths and weaknesses as a developing writer.

Really good introductions call for confidence and self-awareness. Do you really know who you are? That requires thought and examination. For these reasons, crafting your own introduction is both an important and a useful writing assignment.

You might answer some or all of the following questions in your essay:

- What are you proudest of as a writer?
- What difficulties have you had as a writer in the past?
- What experiences have shaped your writing for better or worse?
- What kinds of instruction have been the most, or least, helpful to you as a developing writer? Why?
- What books and writers have influenced your writing style and interests?
- What do you still need to learn most as a writer?
- What can you contribute as a writer to your classes?
- What do you look forward to as an online 111 student and writer? What are you concerned about?

Also, think about what a representative collection of your past writing would look like, and then, talk about those pieces. Do not try to discuss everything you have ever read or written; instead, discuss those experiences that best illustrate your main idea and main points. Make some sense out of your experiences—help your reader understand the significance of your experiences. It is okay if you do not love to read or write—that is part of your story too, but be sure to tell your reader why you feel the way you do.

Please follow the guidelines in the syllabus for essay submission and format.

The **purpose** of this assignment is to show me where you stand as an essayist.

Information about essay evaluation:

When I evaluate this assignment, I will focus mostly on content, organization, use of general and specific details, and effective word choice. However, I will also be checking your editing skills (grammar, mechanics, and spelling). Do the best work you can on this diagnostic essay.

Traps to Avoid:

- Not stating your opinion as fact (Do not use “I think” or “I believe.” You are writing the essay, so I will assume that it is comprised of your thoughts and beliefs.)
- Failing to support your points with details and examples
- Forgetting to format the paper correctly in MLA Style.

Some hints on writing an essay:

- Use your time wisely—split it into stages: planning and organizing, writing, revising, editing, and final checking.
- Focus primarily on details, details, details and examples, examples, examples.