

LITERACY NARRATIVE (100 PTS)

First Draft Due Tuesday, 9/10

Final Draft Due Thursday, 9/12
(in a two-pocket folder and on BB)

RATIONALE

When we hear the word “literacy,” we typically think of the ability to read and write. While this definition is entirely accurate, the word “literacy” can also be applied more broadly to knowledge or ability in any area, from gaining athletic prowess to understanding music composition to learning the ins and outs of the family business. We’ve all experienced the development of a literacy, and it’s important to examine that experience in order to understand how it has shaped us, our views, our relationships, our identity. Such self-knowledge is integral to our future growth, both as individuals and as thoughtful, ethical citizens of the world.

YOUR TASK

As your textbook explains, “By definition, a literacy narrative tells something the writer remembers about learning to read, write, or gain competence in a specific area. In addition, the writer needs to make clear why the incident matters to them” (Bullock 87). **For this assignment, you will be writing a narrative about developing a specific type of literacy throughout your life** (e.g. athletic, musical, literary, artistic). Your essay should incorporate the elements of a strong narrative: use of dialogue and description (using as many of the five senses as possible) to create vibrant scenes; vivid details that help us picture what you’re writing about; and reflection upon the *significance* of the events being described. Merely relating a series of events is not enough; your narrative must also **analyze** and **examine** the significance, meaning, and relevance of these experiences. Thus, your readers will gain insight into how this particular literacy has shaped your identity. This kind of essay gives you the opportunity to be especially creative with your style and approach, so have fun with it!

FORMATTING

- ✚ Required page length: 3-4 pages
- ✚ Times New Roman size 12 font¹
- ✚ Double-spaced
- ✚ One inch margins all around
- ✚ Your essay must have an **original title**
- ✚ The first page of your paper should look like the example of a properly-formatted MLA-style document, which can be found here:
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_sample_paper.html

¹ Your use of font is important. Times New Roman, size 12, is easy to read, which is helpful for me as I will be receiving a *lot* of essays. I appreciate your compliance with this requirement!

EVALUATION CRITERIA

CONTENT—Does the essay respond thoughtfully and creatively to the assignment? To what extent does the essay utilize the various elements of a strong narrative, such as clear descriptions, vivid details, and dialogue? Is there solid reflection upon and analysis of the significance and relevance of these experiences in your life, so that we understand the larger meaning of these moments?

ORGANIZATION—How effective is the sequencing (the order in which information is presented) of your essay? Are effective time markers used to help us follow when these events took place in your life and in relation to each other? Is all the material that is included, or information that is presented, made relevant to the central subject or theme? How effective are the opening and closing of the essay?

STYLE—Are your sentences clear and maybe even sophisticated? Do you vary your sentence structures to create interest for the reader? Is your vocabulary precise and mature, avoiding repetition and vagueness? To what extent is your essay free of mechanical errors (spelling, punctuation, usage, etc.)?

SCORING

Your essay will be evaluated according to the following characteristics:

Purpose/Focus (20 pts): The essay's focus is clear, easy to identify, and successfully demonstrates understanding of the assignment's genre (Literacy Narrative).

Narrative Elements (30 pts): The essay demonstrates strong narrative characteristics, such as use of dialogue, clear descriptions, and engaging storytelling.

Reflection/Significance (30 pts): The essay contains thoughtful, insightful reflection upon the significance and meaning of these experiences in the author's life.

Organization (10 pts): The essay follows a logical organization suitable for a narrative, with clear time markers and transitions; all included material is relevant to the narrative focus.

Style (10 pts): Writing is polished and reasonably free from errors that obscure meaning and clarity.