

Assignment #1 – Literacy Narrative

A narrative tells a story. Your assignment is to write a literacy narrative-- the story of some of your experiences with reading and writing.

Objectives:

- Become familiar with writing with a purpose.
- Practice developing an essay that includes, introduction, body, and conclusion.
- Become familiar with writing as a **responsive process** using assessment, feedback, and revision skills.
- Reflect on your own writing history as a foundation for future writing.
- Create a basis for becoming a more **engaged writer**.

Method:

1. Choose a topic - Consider any of the following as **entry points** to your narrative:

- A single early experience connected to reading or writing that you recall vividly;
- Someone who taught you to read or write;
- A book that inspired you in some way
- Check the textbook, NFGW, p.84-85 for more ideas.

2. Create a list of possibilities using the prompts above. Choose the ones you think are most interesting or ask a friend which ones they like.

3. Model your literacy narrative on one of the essays we studied in class OR look in the back of the textbook, Chap.59, beginning on page 639 for more examples to inspire you.

4. Brainstorm or free write on the subject. Consider the following as prompts: setting – WHERE you were; characters – WHO helped you? –Who hindered you?

5. Get ready to create your outline by considering the following questions:

- Who is your audience? - Your teacher; your peers; yourself; potential future publishers
- What is your stance? - Will your narrative be serious or light-hearted? Neutral? Critical? Are you angry at someone for how you feel about writing? Are you grateful to someone? You may wish to portray these attitudes in your narrative by your tone of voice. These things are expressed as your *stance*.

6. Begin writing your outline designating beginning, middle, and end. (We'll do this in our lab on Friday.)

Write a sentence or two in each section.

7. Following the points in your outline, begin to write your rough draft.

8. **Read it over.** Give it to a friend to read. Ask for their comments. Don't be embarrassed. They will be doing this in their classes as well! Think about your thesis statement – a statement that portrays the main issue you are addressing and conveys to readers what to expect. Does the rest of the narrative feel connected to that thesis and add focus to the story?

9. **Submit** one electronic version in Canvas. Electronic version must be in a MS Word or Google docs format or a file that ends in .doc so that I can add my comments to it. **.PDF files are not acceptable.** Bring one hard copy to class for a peer workshop. **Important:** Your rough draft must be a **nearly complete draft**. It must have:

- Introductory paragraph with hook, connecting information and thesis
- 3 body paragraphs that discuss the main points of your thesis
- Conclusion that restates your thesis, summarizes your main points, answers the question "So what?"

A piece of paper with a couple of sentences or paragraphs just talking about your idea for your essay is **not a rough draft** and you will not receive points for submitting it.

Requirements: **3 pages**, double-spaced, standard 12 pt. font (no script)

Due dates: **First draft** (rough draft) due: Monday, June 11

- Submit one electronic version in Canvas.
- **Bring one hard copy to class** for peer edit workshop

Receive graded copy of rough draft back by Friday, June 15

Final draft due : Monday, June 18

Final draft will consist of:

Folder (with name and section number top right) containing:

- Outline that we did in writing workshop
- Peer edit form and peer edited copy of your rough draft
- Hard copy of your final draft