

University Writing
Assignment: Personal Literacy Narrative

Course Outcomes: 1a, 1c, 1d, 2a, 2b, 2c, 3d (See syllabus for specific outcomes.)

Assignment Description: The purpose of this assignment is to reflect upon experiences that shape you as communicators, find connections among experiences to develop a common thread throughout the essay, and organize ideas in a detailed, descriptive, effective writing style.

A literacy narrative tells a story about your personal experiences with reading and/or writing. Basically, to write this paper, you will choose an event or experience that had an impact on your current feelings toward literacy. Or, you may find that there were several experiences that are somehow connected and have influenced your literary interests. For example, I am an English teacher because my dad was my English teacher who valued reading and writing. He showed me the importance of speaking and writing correctly. In addition, my career choice was solidified when I had a professor, Judi Foster, who showed an interest in my ideas in her literature classes. I was a sponge waiting to learn as much as I could about different types of literature and writing.

As you begin planning and writing, make sure that you not only tell a good story about how you have been shaped as a communicator, but one that makes a point, one from which we can learn something about you. Keep in mind that not everyone's experiences have been pleasant. It's okay to share about something painful or negative that still has an effect on who you are today. The best narratives come from the heart.

Some possibilities to think about are to tell the story of an especially important event in your life that profoundly shaped you as the person you are today. Or, describe an important educational or non-educational experience that influenced your learning in some way. Or, focus on a specific event in which writing or reading played a crucial role. Or, do some variation of all these. The main objective is to share the experience with your audience in as much detail and interesting storytelling as possible. If you are struggling, keep in mind all of the examples we read in class; these were all examples of literacy narratives. Also, you may want to go back to your journals; these prompts could help you connect to your paper topic. Finally keep in mind all of the reading we have done from our text *From Sight to Insight*.

Assignment Requirements:

This essay should follow MLA conventions: the assignment should be word processed with a proper heading, in 12 point Times New Roman, with 1 inch margins, and double spaced. The essay should be 2-4 pages in length. Since it is a personal narrative, it should be written in first person. It should contain a story-like thesis. Paragraphs should flow smoothly with effective topic sentences and transitions that guide the reader from point to point. Be aware that your literacy narrative will be read by others and that you will discuss it in class.

First Draft Due Date:

Final Draft Due Date:

Personal Narrative Scoring Guide

Content score point 20-35: Ineffective Personal Narrative

- Is related to the assigned topic
- May be somewhat focused
- May lack a beginning, middle, and end
- May lack significant description and support
- Lacks continuity, voice, creativity, or uniqueness

Content score point 36-41: Below Average Personal Narrative

- Is related to the assigned topic
- Has a story line that is expressed
- Has some supporting details and development
- Has a beginning, middle, and an end
- Lacks continuity, voice, creativity, or uniqueness

Content score point 42-47: Competent Personal Narrative

- Is related to the assigned topic and has a voice
- Has a story line that is clearly expressed
- Is developed with supporting details and some description

- Has a mostly clear beginning, middle, and end
- Demonstrates a control of the language and sentence structure

Content score point 48-53 Skillful Personal Narrative

- Is related to the assigned topic and has an evident authentic voice
- Remains focused on the story line
- Content develops a point and shows insight
- Is developed with support and lively description and or elaboration that clarifies and expands the story, but may have occasional lapses
- Has a clear beginning, middle, and end and an overall sense of wholeness; uses transitional devices, parallel structure, or other unifying devices to provide a mostly clear, unified progression of ideas
- Demonstrates a control of language that enhances the overall quality of the response; includes some specific and engaging word choice, along with varied sentence types

Content score point 54-60: Exceptionally Skillful Personal Narrative

- Is related to the assigned topic and has a fresh, engaging, authentic voice
- Remains consistently focused on the story line
- Content develops a significant point and elaborates on its importance with a logical progression of ideas while showing higher level thinking and insight
- Is evenly and richly developed with ample, selected support, lively description, and elaboration that clarifies and expands the story
- Has an effective beginning, focused middle, and effective end and an overall sense of wholeness; uses transitional devices, parallel structure, or other unifying devices to provide a clearly sequenced, unified progression of ideas
- Demonstrates a consistent control of language that enhances the overall quality of the response; includes fresh, concise, lively language along with purposefully varied sentence types

Mechanics/Grammar/Spelling: /30 points

$$\begin{array}{rcccc}
 \underline{\hspace{1cm}} & + & \underline{\hspace{1cm}} & + & \underline{\hspace{1cm}} & = & \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \\
 90 & & 5 & & 5 & & 100 \\
 & & \text{All drafts} & & \text{Turnitin} & & \text{Total} \\
 & & \text{included} & & \text{Receipt} & &
 \end{array}$$