

Literacy Narrative

Overview

In a world where illiteracy still exists, being literate is one of the most valuable attributes you have that no one can take away from you. Being literate makes you a powerful citizen of the world, and it's important in personal, local, and global engagement. You are a highly literate person by the mere fact that you can read and write.

This assignment challenges you to answer a simple question: How did you become a literate person? More specifically, this assignment asks you to tell a story—a *narrative*—about some aspect of your development as a literate individual. For this narrative, we will define the term literacy broadly, to include multimedia literacy, computer literacy, and information literacy in addition to the traditional categories of reading, writing, and speaking. Your narrative should recount a specific experience (or series of experiences) from your life to show how you became the reader, the writer, the speaker, the technologist, etc., that you are today.

Audience

It's important to understand the audience for which you are writing because it should influence how you structure your writing. The audience for this assignment will be your fellow class participants as well as yourself. As you write, consider the different experiences and cultural understandings your fellow class participants might have and how they might correlate to your own experiences and cultural understandings. Consider your audience as you describe or detail parts of your narrative.

Assignment Requirements

The general requirements of this narrative (beyond, of course, that it is about literacy) include the following:

- Length: 600 (no less) to 900 words (Work for 900 words. If you go over, that's okay, but make sure to practice revision and concision.)
- Format: 12 point font size, double-space sentencing, and an appropriate font (e.g. Calibri, Arial, Cambria, etc). **Do not** use Times New Roman or Comic Sans.
- File Naming: You should name your file clearly: for example, "kays1301literacynarrative.doc" This will help you and me keep your work organized.

Evaluation Criteria

- Does your narrative use coherent language and flow smoothly?
- Does your narrative reflect careful thought and planning?
- Does your narrative include details? Do those details support the experience(s) you're attempting to relate?
- Does your narrative connect to your development as a literate person?
- Does the tone of your narrative and style employed fit your audience?
- Does your narrative adhere to standard written English?

A literacy narrative is both a personal and professional act because it involves things that you have learned and enact in both your personal and professional lives. Work hard, have fun, and think about how your literacy has evolved over time and where it might be going.

Onward!