

# Essay #1: Literacy Narrative

## Assignment Description

For this assignment, you will write a **2-3 page (500 - 750 words) literacy narrative** in which you will describe your experience with reading, writing or both. The goals for this essay are to explore how literacy has shaped the kind of person you are on many levels: academic, personal, political, etc. Your narrative should **focus on a single event** that took place during a relatively brief period of time. For example:

- An early memory about reading or writing that you recall vividly
- Someone who taught you to read or write
- A book or other text that has been significant for you in some way
- An event at school that was related to reading or writing that you found interesting, humorous or embarrassing
- A reading or writing task that you found (or still find) especially difficult or challenging
- A memento or object that represents an important moment in your literacy development
- The origins of your current attitudes about reading and writing
- Learning to read or write in a new language

## Sample Essays

- [“Mother Tongue”](#) by Amy Tan
- [“Literacy Behind Bars”](#) by Malcolm X

## Format

500-750 words; Size 12 font, Times New Roman, standard margins, double-spaced.

Cite all outside sources in proper MLA format. You must include a Works Cited page with your essay. \*Note: Works Cited page does not count toward the word count.

- [MLA In-Text Citations: The Basics](#)
- [MLA Sample Works Cited Page](#)
- [MLA Sample Paper](#)

## Submission

Upload a digital copy of your **Final Draft** as a Word file (.doc or .docx) via Blackboard **no later than Thursday, September 24th at 11:59pm.**

## Timeline

<b>SEPT 8</b>	Review Essay #1: Literacy Narrative Assignment Sheet
<b>SEPT 17</b>	ESSAY #1 FIRST DRAFT DUE
<b>SEPT 22</b>	Post peer review comments to Bb
<b>SEPT 24</b>	ESSAY #1 FINAL DRAFT DUE

## Evaluation Rubric

### Title & Introduction - 10%

- Does your title indicate something about the subject of your narrative? Does it entice the reader to jump right into the story?
- Are your opening paragraphs intriguing and memorable? Do they capture the essence of the story? Do they draw the reader in and make them want to read more?

### Content - 25%

- Does your essay contain a cohesive narrative or thorough description of a single literacy event or experience in your life?
- Does your essay convey the narrative significance or meaning this event/experience has for you today? Why does it matter to you?
- Is your essay creative? Does it reflect your personal writing style?

### Development - 25%

- Does your essay reference specific examples from your life to illustrate your points?
- Does your essay include vivid sensory details of the sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and textures of the world in which your story takes place?

### Organization - 25%

- Does your essay have a coherent structure?
- Are your ideas united and logically organized in a way that leads to a thought-provoking conclusion?
- Are your paragraphs focused on distinct units of thought, controlled by specific and detailed topic sentences?
- Do you implement appropriate, clear, and smooth transitions?
- A **conclusion** that effectively ties together your narrative and the "point" you are trying to make

### Style - 10%

- Are the sentences well-worded and well-constructed? Should some sentences be combined for clarity? Should others be broken into two or more sentences, so ideas receive proper emphasis?
- Do you use quotations and MLA citations effectively?

### Grammar -5%

- Have you proofread and edited your piece for grammatical and punctuation errors?

This assignment sheet has referenced "Writing a Literacy Narrative" from *Norton Field Guide to Writing - With Readings and Handbook - MLA Update*, 4th edition, pg. 84-85