

Literacy Narrative Assignment



A literacy narrative is a type of autobiographical essay that describes, in vivid detail, your personal experiences with speaking, writing, and reading. Though, as we've discussed, there are many forms of literacy, for this assignment, you'll be focusing on language literacy. As you write this narrative, I'd like you to look closely at your relationship with language, in hopes of improving it.

We use language every day without thinking about it. We glance casually at street signs, read menus and nutrition labels, and talk with those around us like it's no big deal, but it is a big deal! As anyone who's lived in a country where they didn't speak or read the language can attest, living without literacy can be quite challenging. We're all on a continuum regarding our ability to use what's called "Standard English," and this is our opportunity to examine our place on that continuum, assessing how we got there and how we feel about it. We've talked a good deal about language prejudice and how damaging it can be to feel devalued due to the way you write or talk. This is a chance to examine any wounds afflicted along our literacy path. In sum, this assignment is writing-to-learn; writing-to-learn; writing-to-learn, all at the same time. In telling your story, you may briefly consider the literacy sponsors you've already written about, but only in so far as they impacted your feelings about literacy. **Remember that the goal of this assignment is to change something: to gain perspective and to locate something in your relationship with literacy that could be improved.** Your narrative should name and explore what this "something that can be improved" is. Then it should chart a plan for the future in which you continue to grow as a writer and thinker.