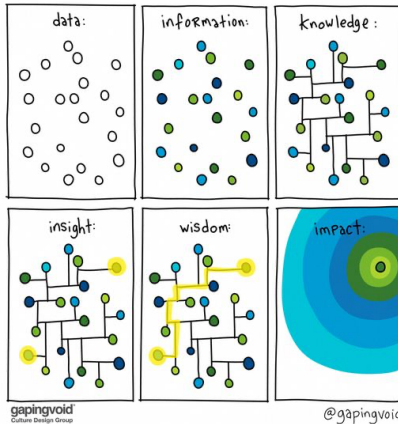


Literacy Sponsor Assignment



Identify an important moment in your literacy history when a particular “sponsor” affected your development as a reader and/or writer. Write a vivid, detailed story of 500 words describing how this sponsor influenced you and briefly analyze their impact on your literacy development, whether positive or negative. What were the sponsor’s motivations? How do you know?

Common “literacy sponsors” include older relatives, teachers, priests, supervisors, editors, influential authors, and celebrities.

Tips for Writing:

- The persuasiveness of a narrative depends largely on the details it provides. Do more than summarize your experience; capture the sights, sounds, smells, tastes, dialogue, and feelings.
- Avoid reducing the significance of this experience to a commonplace, such as “this experience taught me how important reading is” or “without literacy, I would not be the person I am today.” While such statements may be true, the story of how we acquire literacy is complex. Sponsors have their own complex reasons for helping (or withholding!) literacy. Your narrative should attempt to capture the complexity of literacy sponsorship.
- In examining the situations in which you learned to read, you are examining the power structures inherent in the situation and how they were mobilized for or against you.