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Eng 1126

2/5/19

Literacy is the ability for one to be able to read and understand something presented before them. Normally when the word “literacy” is used, it refers to being able to read, understand, and write words. But, the word literacy can be used to mean more than being able to read and write. Literacy can be used to describe having knowledge in any area of focus. Being able to utilize technology efficiently could be called being technologically literate while being capable of critical thinking would make one critically literate.

My Literacy narrative is one that both has nothing to do about literacy while is all about my literacy. While conversation on the internet has had no bearing on the way I speak and write formally (the standard definition of literacy), it has formed the way that I type when addressing others on the internet. Speaking on the internet is a very different task than speaking to others in real life. There are many communities on the internet, and also like most communities, each has its own unique way of speaking. There are many different situations that you have to tailor your writing to in order to make your writing more effective.

Like wth all things, I was by no means internet literate when I began using the internet. After many years of casual online banter I become more increasingly comfortable with exchange with different groups over the internet. Bunches of letters that I had once looked upon in confusion now make perfect sense to me as ive learned over time what everything meant.

Each website had its own dialect. The words, sentence structure, and overall attitude of the community varied from site to site. Speakers from a site like 4chan for example tended to use abbreviations and initialisms while also rarely being serious, but this is no surprise seeing as this the nature of the platform and its user base. Online gamers similarly abbreviate common words and terms that are commonly used in their circles because less time could be spent communicating with each other and more time on playing and taking objectives or whatever else is relevant in the game. Sites where articles and stories are written like news outlets and fanfic.com have more of a serious audience where perfect spelling, punctuation, and a more serious attitude are expected by all in order to aid discussion and debate.

During my time on the internet i've learned how to adapt my speech to the platform that I am using at the time. The first time I had encountered any sort conflict over online speech was during a time when online speech was a new thing to me entirely, and I didnt know the mainstream abbreviations like ‘iirc’ or ‘ikr’. I thought to myself that the others were using some sort of code that I had not known about while everyone else was able to pick up on my unfamiliarity with online speech almost immediately. Things like my writing in full sentences while uncapitalizing my ”I”s and adding periods to the ends of single statements were giveaways.

After having gotten used to the new way of writing for online, I had taken what I had learned to other sites because I had thought that that is how everyone online had spoke. In other circles like discussion boards, news comment sections, and similar places I was often called out because of my mostly improper speech, casual misspellings, and my usage of phrases like “lol” and “idk”. This was when I realized that not everywhere on the internet is the same and that people speak differently on different sites like we do in real life. It was then that I had looked back at all the websites that I had used to go to and looked closer at the way users had spoke online and I started to find differences from website to website. Certain words were used more often than others on some websites while others were looked down upon like curses and the newest slang.

After years of interaction with many different groups of people on many different platforms and websites on the internet, I can say that I have become internet literate. Over the course of months I had become literate while I am gaining mastery little by little every day. While true complete mastery over internet speak is impossible because of its ever-changing nature, there is no barrier to trying to learn and you can only benefit as it means you can converse with more groups of people