Christine Choi

**Literacy Narrative Assignment**

A **literacy narrative** is a reflection on one’s experiences with reading and writing, and how those experiences helped shape one’s current reading and writing practices. It is also meant to examine the role literacy plays in one’s life.

For this assignment, **you must write a 3-4 page (typed, double-spaced) literacy narrative** that reflects on the formative literacy experiences in your life, both good and bad. How have they contributed thus far to your knowledge of reading and writing, and the literacy practices you have adopted and use today? What can you transfer from your existing knowledge and practices that can help you succeed in your current academic environment? Finally, explain how your experiences with reading and writing have affected your relationship with the social, cultural, and political spaces around you, and vice versa.

**Due Date:** Wednesday, 9/18 (uploaded via Open Lab + 1 hard copy)

**Grade Breakdown**

* OpenLab Posts - 5%
* Draft + Peer Review - 5%
* Final Draft - 10%

**Schedule**

**Wed 9/4 Reflecting on Literacy Experiences: The Good and the Bad**

Make a list of the formative literacy experiences in your life both positive and negative\*, separating them into two columns. Choose one positive and one negative literacy experience from your list. **To be posted on OpenLab**: In 1-2 paragraphs each, describe in vivid detail each experience and why it was important to you. How did the positive experience contribute to your reading/writing practices today? How have you since developed from and overcome the negative experience?

\*You can refer to perhaps a challenging experience with reading/writing, or one that frustrated/hindered your literacy acquisition.

**Th 9/5 (Classes follow Monday Schedule)**

Read through the OpenLab postings, and then comment in 1-2 paragraphs on the work of at least 2 of your classmates (if you see a student already has two replies, please choose another student). How were his/her experiences either similar or different to yours? What is one insight you have you gained about the reading/writing process? What is one useful writing practice that we could adopt in our class this semester and why? Alternatively, what is one bad writing practice that we should not use in our class and why? Please make specific reference to your classmate’s post. There should be clear connections between the post and your response to it. Avoid generic responses that do not take into account the original post.

**M 9/9 Reading & Responding to Literacy Narratives: Models and Sources**

Read and annotate Amy Tan’s “Mother Tongue” and Gloria Anzaldúa’s “How to Tame a Wild Tongue.” Then, in 1-2 paragraphs, respond to the following questions: How do these texts relate to your own experiences with language, writing, and communication? Write about a time in your life in which you had to “switch codes.” How do our literacy practices affect our sense of identity, and how we engage socially, culturally, and politically with our community?

**W 9/11 Draft of Literacy Narrative Due**

Now it is time to consolidate what we have been reading and discussing into your personal literacy narrative. Re-read the assignment and expectations above.

**M 9/16 Revised Draft of Literacy Narrative Due (uploaded via Open Lab + 3 hard copies)**

**W 9/18 Literacy Narrative Final Draft Due (uploaded via Open Lab + 1 hard copy)**