



Literacy Narrative - Collecting Memories:
Reflecting on Literacy Experiences: The Good and the Bad

CLASSWORK

Introduction:

It is important to reflect on your early literacy development to provide you with insight regarding yourself as a writer, to provide you with inspiration regarding the topics and material which will help you tell your stories and to bring awareness to our writing community regarding your personal experience.

Initial Writing Activity:

Write a brief response to each prompt below. Complete the prompts, as they relate to your personal literacy experiences.

- a. Writing means...
- b. Reading means...
- c. Literacy means...

Reflection:

Reflect on your early literacy experiences to discover events which are meaningful by responding to the following questions. You do not need to write in complete sentences for this activity. Simply create a list; jot down your ideas. Alternatively, you may choose to create a chart where on one side you list positive experiences and on the other side you list negative experiences. Also, you do not need to respond to each question, or each question in succession. The goal is to explore and discover insight into the places in your own literacy history where there may be blocks, or where you may find great inspiration. This exercise is designed to help you discover the events and experiences that have shaped who you are as a reader and writer.

1. Memories of writing. *Try* to jot down a response to each question. As a writer:
 - a. What memories do you have about when you first learned to write? Be specific and provide details. Were you in school? Did you use crayons?
 - b. Who taught you to write? Be specific and provide details.
 - c. What is your first memory of writing something you or others liked?
 - d. What is your first memory of writing something you or others disliked?
 - e. What is your first memory of letter writing, note passing, secret writing?
 - f. What or who has influenced you as a writer? This can be people in your life, events in

your life, your favorite authors or your favorite teachers.

- g. How did you feel about writing in elementary school? In middle school? Now?
- h. What is your relationship with writing? Do you write for useful purposes? For entertainment?
- i. Describe yourself as a writer? Why is this true?
- j. What kinds of writing do you avoid? Why?
- k. What kinds of writing do you do? Why?
- l. Who reads your writing?
- m. Do you text? Write a blog? Use social media? Who do you write with or to using these forms?
- n. Do you have specific steps, a special place or special rituals and supplies you need to write? What are they?
- o. What is the hardest part about writing for you? What is the easiest?

2. Memories of reading. *Try to jot down a response to each question. As a reader:*
- a. Were you read to as a child? By whom? What do you remember about being read to?
 - b. Did you have books, newspapers, magazines in your home?
 - c. Do you remember the adults in your life reading for pleasure? For work? Describe this.
 - d. Did you have a favorite book as child? What was it?
 - e. Did you go to the library as a child? What do you remember about this experience?
 - f. Do you remember reading for pleasure as a child? What was the first book you remember reading? Did you finish it?
 - g. What is your first memory of being able to read something that you enjoyed? Explain this.
 - h. What is your first memory of reading something you did not enjoy? Explain this.
 - i. What is your first memory of reading aloud in class?
 - j. Is there a teacher or grade in school you associate with love or hate of reading? Explain this.
 - k. How would you describe yourself as a reader? Why?
 - l. Who is the biggest influence on you as a reader?
 - m. What do you like to read?
 - n. What kinds of reading do you avoid?
 - o. Is there a specific place, specific materials, special rituals you use when you read? What does it look like when you are reading?
3. Look back at your collected memories. Are there highs and lows? identify two positive experiences by underlining them and two negative responses by circling them.
4. Take a minute to think about how these memories have shaped your literacy history.

AT HOME

- Using these collected memories. Begin to organize your thoughts in a way that make sense to you. Use a timeline, event sequencing, or use negatives and positives to organize your first draft. Your purpose will be to discover how your personal literacy history has influenced you as a reader and writer today.
- Choose 1 - 2 positive and 1 - 2 negative experiences from your list. Consider formative literacy experiences. Those experiences that have had an indelible imprint on you. In 1 - 2 paragraphs for each positive and for each negative experience you have chosen from your list, describe in vivid detail each experience and why it was important to you. What was important about these literacy experiences and how did these encounters shape you? How did the positive experiences contribute to your reading/writing practices today? How have you since developed from and overcome the negative experiences?

Due: Monday, September 9, 2019

Process for submitting:

1. Post on OpenLab
 - a. First, get a CityTech email address.
 - b. Second, join Open Lab.
 - c. Third, request membership in our course.
2. Print and bring one (1) hard copy to class.