

## Literacy Narrative Assignment Draft

**Due Date:** September 17th, 2020

**Word Count:** 1250 words.

You've read "Mother Tongue" by Amy Tan, "Da State of Pidgin Address" by Lee Tonouchi and watched "The Dangers of a Single Story" Ted Talk by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, which are three separate narratives about personal experiences involving language and education. Through these pieces, and various other texts and videos that we've examined in Unit One about vernacular language, literacy, and education, we have identified some of the dilemmas when it comes to standardized English and the communities of people who are largely (and negatively) impacted by the system of "perfect" English; there are misconceptions about their intellectual identity based on their language skills. Now, it's time for *you* to share your own personal narrative! Write about your experiences at school involving your natural vernacular and misconceptions people may have had about you.

There are several ways you can tackle this assignment. As Tonouchi does, you can write an essay in support of your specific vernacular being taught in schools by using examples from your own experiences and by showcasing the importance of your personal communicative method. Or, you can follow Adichie's method by detailing some of the stereotypes you were labeled with because of your culture and language. Or, you can be like Tan and write a memoir style essay that discusses your family's language system.

Your essay can also:

- —Discuss a difficult assignment you had to do and how it turned out.
- —Describe an instructor that you really loved and how they ran their classroom.
- —Discuss an incident that occurred to you in school that really impacted the way you viewed yourself.
- —Discuss your writing skills and thing you'd like to improve upon.
- —Describe things that you appreciated about your English class.

**You will be graded on:**

- Word count—is your essay about 1250 words?
- Language—are you using understandable grammar and proper spelling?
- Clarity—are the stories you're sharing clear? Are they organized?
- Written Presentation—are you using black ink, size twelve, and Times New Roman font?