

ENG1101

Unit 1: Literacy Narrative Essay

In this unit, we are investigating the place of language and writing in our lives. We've read and discussed (formally and informally) narratives that examine language—both spoken and written, with the following goals in mind:

We have:

- reflected on the **varied experiences of language and writing**, and how language shapes our identity and community, and the role writing (and reading) plays;
- reflected on the **languages we use** with friends, with relatives, immediate family, fellow students, teachers, supervisors, etc.;
- reflected on our **relationships to language** and **looked critically** at our own writing processes.

Assignment: Narrative (800 words, minimum)

We will write an essay about a significant event in your experience as a writer/student.

Consider what you've written in the journal entries: perhaps you want to expand on some of the things you have written there. Remember the different ways the writers we've discussed write about their own experience as writers/speakers of language.

You may want to write about:

- an event in your **educational career** that was particularly formative;
- a **specific literacy/learning** event that led you to become the thinker you are today;
- the first time you had a **profound experience** related to language;
- your **experience as a writer in this class** so far, or in writing classes in general

Whatever the context you choose from the examples above, you should:

- talk about how the event **shaped your relationship** to reading and writing, or to school/education in general;
- how your particular experience **relates to some of the bigger social and cultural issues** we discussed in class, such as race, the education system, Standard Written English (SWE), etc.;
- reflect upon how your experience has **enabled you to understand something specific** about reading, writing, learning, or language AND how that understanding reflects on the communities/world you inhabit.

This assignment isn't meant to be a traditional essay with a thesis statement and five structured paragraphs. Instead, this is you relating to your peers the story of who you are as someone who belongs to a particular speech and/or writing community, and your history as a reader and writer. In that spirit, you can choose to format or write this in whatever way you think best communicates your story honestly.

Due Dates

- Rough Draft: XX
- Final Draft: XX

All deadlines are absolute. If you do not turn in the assignments on the published deadlines, you will receive **zero** points for that particular deadline. This will be discussed further in class.

Grading

The grade will depend on the following, which will be covered in more detail in class discussion:

- depth and clarity of your writing
- organization of thoughts
- concreteness of details
- details support the greater narrative/argument