

Mansur Usman

Professor Jewell

ENG 1101

12/16/19

### Literacy Narrative

*My literacy narrative was my first huge piece that I had to write. At first, I didn't know much because my wording was all messed up and my grammar was horrible but I try to fix it up and add more details to it. Even though for my first big assignment I didn't feel comfortable doing it I still made it.*

I am not a reader, writer or thinker. My whole life I have struggled in all of these criteria's, as of right now I feel like I have made a mistake in some parts of my sentence. Every time that I write I feel like I've misplaced commas and sometimes I feel like my periods are not even correct. That is something that I know about myself that I am not really proud of. When it comes down to reading, I obviously know how but it is still not good enough i am not able to read fast like how I want to and sometimes get irritated learning something is complicated if you don't put in the time and expand your horizons. And that is what I would like to do, reach those horizons and maybe someday day write a book like Harper Lee because I completely fell in love with *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Well I will admit that out of all these three categories the one I'm not that bad at is as a thinker for whatever reason my teachers actually like when I participate in class. They like

to hear my ideas out and sometimes be impressed with what I have to say. Well I do think that is pretty cool for a teacher to tell a student “WOW that pretty great of what you have to say”. I guess it gives me some confidence that maybe I'm not so bad and I can improve on my weaknesses. Well as a child I grew up in Ghana until I was like nine years old. I don't really remember learning anything when I was back in my country and I know I got most of my education in America. The teachers are completely different from the ones in America. If you misbehave or get in trouble you will be punished. And sometimes unnecessary punishments for having different colored socks. Well even though I feel like I did not learn much in Ghana, I do admit I knew how to speak English before I got to America. I learned how to read and write and how to speak in English. When I arrived in America, I was placed in the fifth grade and I didn't really fit in with the other kids. I felt like their English was better than mine because I had an accent and they didn't. I felt misplaced and sometimes uncomfortable to go to school. Other kids would usually laugh because I was different and act like it's a sin to have an accent or talk differently. But I continued to learn and develop the way I spoke and my vocabulary. I learned quickly and by the time I reached seventh grade I was a little more confident with the way I read and spoke. But I feel like it's still not enough that I haven't learned anything. Maybe I don't give myself enough credit because others will wish to know what I know. I have to start learning ways I can better myself and be efficient in these three criteria, then maybe I can be a reader, writer or thinker.

### Annotated Bibliography

*The annotated bibliography was the biggest assignment we had to do in my opinion. There were so much details to it and it was a headache but the work had to be done. Even now going back to edit there are still many details that I feel like can be improved on.*

Roger Ebert. The Godfather movie review

[rogerebert.com/reviews/the-godfather-1972](http://rogerebert.com/reviews/the-godfather-1972)

Ebert review of the godfather makes us understand the connections between the movies characters and our family. In Ebert's review he wrote "We tend to identify with Don Corleone's family not because we dig gang wars, but because we have been with them from the beginning, watching them wait for battle while sitting at the kitchen table and eating chow mien out of paper cartons". Ebert makes this statement which indicates that most of us sit with our families at the dinner table we might not be preparing for war but we still enjoy the Corleone's sitting at the dinner table discussing whatever family problems they have to encounter. Ebert also goes on to give the characters a lot of credit for their hard work. He said that the actors gave an example of "inspired acting" Eberts said those words to get us to understand the hard work these characters put in the movie and without them the movie would not have the same spark. In Ebert's review he states "The Godfather's role in the family enterprise is described by his name; he stands outside the next generation which will carry on and, hopefully, angle the family into legitimate

enterprises”. In a family there's the protector in the family that watches over the family, that can either be our fathers or mothers who are strong enough to guide us through life. This review attracts many types of different audience who wants to get an opinion from a trusted source.

<https://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/great-movie-the-godfather-1972>

Roger Ebert. The dark knight movie review

[rogerebert.com/reviews/the-dark-knight-2008](https://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/the-dark-knight-2008)

In Ebert's review the claim was that we care about the characters, the writing for this film and the performances of these characters. In the review it states “The Dark Knight” is not a simplistic tale of good and evil. Batman is good, yes, The Joker is evil, yes. But Batman poses a more complex puzzle than usual:”. What I get from this is how complex the characters are there is more to these characters than we knowing their good and evil. In Ebert's review it states “”The Dark Knight” slips around those defenses and engages us”. He is telling us how powerful the movie was that watching it caught all of our attention and how amazing the cinematography is. The tone that he used is formal to make us understand how important this review was to him. The audience that the review attract are teenagers and big Batman fans so they won't be disappointed with what they like.

<https://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/the-dark-knight-2008>

Andy Gill. Scarface movie review

[empireonline.com/movies/reviews/Scarface](http://empireonline.com/movies/reviews/Scarface)

In this movie review Gill argues that Scarface is Al Pacino's movie. In the review it states "The opening shots of Tony Montana reveal that were in the presence of a truly Mephistophelean character, and one of modern cinema's great performances". This shows that how Al Pacino's character in the movie inspired Gill to write about how great of a performance that was shown on cinema and how Al Pacino controlled the movie. While time that the movie came out many critics dismissed the movie but Gill was still cheerful about it and encourage that it was an amazing film. In the review it states "It's a delicious performance from an actor who knows he's on top form, and Pacino's swaggering arrogance bleeds into the character, juicing it up even further." Gill is fascinated with how Al Pacino gets into character with this movie and put his soul into this work. The audience that this is entertaining is movie lovers and Al Pacino fans.

<https://www.empireonline.com/movies/reviews/scarface-review/>

Rob Humanick. Toy story

[slantmagazine.com/film/toy-story/](https://www.slantmagazine.com/film/toy-story/)

In this movie review, Humanick makes a claim about how the movie is virtually perfect. In the review it states “Nary a frame goes to waste in the establishment and development of plot and character...” Humanick describes how he views the movies work and how impressed he was by Disney's work. In the review Humannick also said “it's doubtful that there could have been a more perfect subject for the first fully computer-generated film”. Humannick did not believe that at this time period there could not be no other movie that captured his heart like Toy story. Humanick tone was joyful telling how he felt about the movie and how beautiful it was. This review was made for all ages to enjoy a great review for an awesome movie.

<https://www.slantmagazine.com/film/toy-story/>

Peter Rainer. Superman returns

csmonitor.com/2006/

Rainer was not a big fan of the superman returns movie and he claims it as a “mild disappointment”. In Rainer’s review he states “This approach should not be shocking to anyone who saw Singer's X-Men movies”. Rainer compared superman returns to another movie which did a much better job at analyzing the story and the characters. Rainer sound disappointed while writing this review and you can just tell by the way he words it and explain certain things. In the review it states “Brandon Routh certainly has the right rock-jawed comic-book look but, unlike Christopher Reeve, who also had the look, he's not much of an actor”. Again, we see Rainer make a comparison against the movie as he talks about how others did a better job and this movie just disappointed him. The audience this movie attract is mostly teens and big fans of superman to see he their favorite hero was in the movie.

<https://www.csmonitor.com/2006/0627/p14s01-almo.html><https://www.csmonitor.com/2006/0627/p14s01-almo.html>

Todd McCarthy. Heat movie review

In this review McCarthy makes a strong claim of how heat stands out as one of the best crime films that has not been seen in a while. In the review it states “heat occupies an exalted position among the countless contemporary crime films”. What this means is that heat is like no other crime film it has its own strong message and stand out by itself. In the review it states “rarely in the crime genre have so many characters been so deeply drawn...”. The characters in this are also so powerful and that's what makes this movie even stronger and propel the movie even further. The tone is so far giving us the details we need for the review. The audience this speaks to is an old-time movie lover who love action and crime.

#### Research and Audience

*The research and audience paper to me was my best work and I felt like there's no reason to revise it. I am genuinely proud of it and I felt like what I've learned in class was applied. In the future I know I can still make changes to improve it.*

**Mansur Usman**

300 jay St

Brooklyn, NY 11201

[Mansur.usman@mail.citytech.cuny.edu](mailto:Mansur.usman@mail.citytech.cuny.edu)

23 November 2019

**André Calantzopoulos**

**Phillip Morris international**

**120 Park Ave # 6, New York, NY 10017**

Dear Mr. Calantzopoulos

I am writing you today about an issue that I have it's not against you personally but it is an issue with your company. For many years' humans have been smoking for many years now and over the years it has become a huge issue. Sure, people smoke for a reason some claim it's because of stress and need something to relax the body. And others do it because it looks cool and that everyone does it too. But for many years research has also shown the harm that smoking does to a human even as crazy as leading to death. Smoking has a high risk for a human to get cancer. According to the American cancer society they claim "not only does smoking increase the guy risk for lung cancer, it's also a risk factor for cancers of the: mouth, kidney, liver, pancreas etc....". Wow I am just amazed at what something as small as tobacco can do to a human being. In today's world one of our biggest fear is cancer, for many years now, doctors have not been able to find a cure for this frightening disease. And for many years we have learned that cancer is killing us and there is nothing worse than hearing someone you love pass away from this disease. Nicotine is also one big issue in smokers. Nicotine is a big problem because it's what causes people to keep smoking because it causes you to be addicted to tobacco. Studies from healthline.com states "Nicotine largely affects the area of the brain responsible for attention, memory, learning, and brain plasticity". For humans our brains define who we are and we can do in this world and why on earth would we want to mess that up. With nicotine it can really affect us in all of these areas a human need to function well. And as for teenagers that our mind is still developing the last thing that we need is nasty chemicals affecting how we think. We need our brain to its fullest capability so we can be able to learn and to see the world for how it really is. This is a big issue that we have to take action on because as a teenager, the last thing I need is chemicals and unknown substances going through my head. Mr. Calantzopoulos now I have a

question for you. Why do people have to keep suffering from tobacco while your company makes billions? For years now solutions have been made but still the strength of your company has a huge influence on the people. For years there have been solution to help people who are suffering from the abuse of tobacco and it is killing them but when a strong influence like you're taking the wheel on these situations and allowing change to be achieved a lot of people can be helped.

Sincerely

Mansur Usman

**Mansur Usman**

300 jay St

Brooklyn, NY 11201

[Mansur.usman@mail.citytech.cuny.edu](mailto:Mansur.usman@mail.citytech.cuny.edu)

23 November 2019

**The New York Times**

**620 Eighth Avenue Manhattan, New York 10018**

An open letter to the people of New York and all around the world.

I am writing you about an issue that is a great deal of importance to me and I think that you should hear me out. Since I was born and my brain was able to perceive things i've never liked smoking and i found it disturbing. But it's not about me this is for my smokers and i just want to find a way to help. One thing that I know we all want is to be healthy and you cannot claim that if your constantly causing harm to your body. A bunch of research has been done on this issue and one from the CDC a website that is very trusted claim "Cigarette smoking kills more than 480,000 Americans each year. In addition, smoking -related illness in the United States costs more than \$300 billion a year..." this breaks my heart that the amount of people in the US die from smoking and it might not scare some people out there but just imagine other places that smokes and not only in the us. Well finding out this information made me take the issue more seriously because everyone's life matters to me. For those who thinks it not an issue you have to look on how you affect the people around you and your loved once. When you smoke not all of the smoke goes into your body and some are released in the air so others who are not smokers get affected by this and end up with the same diseases smoking can cause. My question is why do they have to suffer the same consequence for being innocent? You affect the people your living with from babies to adults and this can have a big impact on them in the future. This source is from Web MD and let's hear what they have to say about this "Exposure to secondhand

smoke raises your risk -- by as much as 30 percent -- of getting lung cancer and many other types of cancer. It can lead to emphysema, and it's bad for your heart". So now think do the innocent really deserve this. one thing that is important to everyone is health and living longer for yourself or someone who you value a lot. Smoking goes against those wishes and potentially causing you to lose your life faster or you can hurt someone you love dearly in the process. I know people like to smoke to relieve stress but there are also many ways you can release your stress like daily exercise, spend time with your family and you can also write it down. I know all this can be hard and it surely wouldn't be an easy process but if you're determined, you can achieve this.

Sincerely

Mansur Usman

[https://amp.cancer.org/cancer/cancer-causes/tobacco-and-cancer/he](https://amp.cancer.org/cancer/cancer-causes/tobacco-and-cancer/health-risks-of-smoking-tobacco.html)

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<https://www.webmd.com/smoking-cessation/qa/is-being-exposed-to-secondhand-smoke-bad-for-you>

<https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/campaign/tips/resources/data/cigarette-smoking-in-united-states.html>

<https://www.healthline.com/health-news/heres-how-nicotine-affects-the-body>

*To kill a Mockingbird* was a book that i cherished while growing up. It left a powerful image in my head to go against odds that are trying to bring you down. Growing up I never was into reading and often skipped on reading assignments because they were dreadfully long and boring. This takes me back to 7th grade when my teacher introduced that book, she gave the class a brief background about the book but of course I wasn't paying but I did hear he say something about a white lawyer defending a black man for a crime he did not commit. I'm thankful that we started reading as a whole class because if it wasn't for that I would have missed out on this beautiful book. After a couple days of reading in class I caught myself actually reading at home it only felt natural. I completely fell in love with that book the characters were amazing and well written. It also taught me a couple lessons one of them as I said before go against your odds and don't judge others by the color of their skin. *To kill a Mockingbird* was a book I consistently read and it allowed me to be ahead of most people in the class. I was able to participate in class and completely understood what I was supposed to do. *To kill a Mockingbird* is a book that really stood out to me my whole entire life and i still remember a lot of things from the book and I would very much grab that book and live those moments again.

In Malcolm X learning to read shows the power of education and how it strengthens someone's mind and their way of thought. Malcolm X shows the effort he puts in to educate himself even though he was in prison. Malcolm soon started to realize how his people are being treated during this era. Even though Malcolm was imprisoned for petty theft being in jail made him realize what he needed to educate himself. In the text it stated "it was sad. I couldn't even write in a straight line" pg. 258. This is what made Malcolm realize that it was disappointing for him as a black man not to be educated. And this led to him realizing that prison was actually the right place he needed to be to educate himself. Malcolm also described the white men as "devils" (Pg263). Showing the struggle minorities went through that time and how the whites use "trickery and manipulations" to destroy others' lives and to gain more power to rule and suppress others. Through education that Malcolm received in prison he then now had a voice to show other what torment they are going through, and how they are being used and abused. According to the text it states "I read, a little bit more sensitivity to the deafness, dumbness, and blindness that was afflicting the black race in America (Pg. 265). A huge amount of black in America was uneducated in this time period they were kept far from education, and without education you are looked down upon on like an animal. This is what allowed Malcolm to take the necessary steps he needed to educate himself. I took a lesson from "Learning to read" is to realize that the importance of educating yourself, and fighting against odds that are trying to stop you from achieving knowledge. No matter what time of position you are in and the struggles that comes ahead push yourself and keep pushing. Malcolm who was sent to prison for a common robbery showed us there is no excuse not to educate yourself and with education it allows doors to be open for you.

Dear Professor. Jewells

Thank you for giving me confidence in my writing. Ever since I was little, I hated writing and did poorly in my essays and also in my writing classes. I still remember My first day in your class I felt like I would do horrible and possibly end up with a bad grade, but i decided that I also got to put in the effort to do great. For my first major assignment “The literacy narrative” the first sentence was “I am not a reader, writer or thinker”. These first sentences mean a lot to me because that how i felt like a writer. My confidence was horrible and I felt like that would never change, but you told me and try to encourage me that I can become a writer and to give it a try. I held these words throughout middle school and high school and the beginning of your class and now I feel like I have matured as a writer but i still got more growing to do as a writer. Moving on to my annotated bibliography i gained more confidence as a writer and that made me proud of myself. I learned a new style of writing the MLA format which I've never used before until I been in your class that when I learned about this format and added it to my writing it will take a while to get used to it but I will continue to use it in the future and hopefully master it. For my “literacy narrative” I did not use a lot of different languages to speak to my audience i didn't really emphasize on the genre that I was talking about and the audience that I was entertaining. All of that was different with my annotated bibliography i knew my audience that my message was for how to grab their attention and why i chose that genre because I knew it will interest them as it does me. My first assignment that I submitted on open lab is what got me going, writing about “Malcolm x learning how to read” inspired me to believe that if Malcolm x was able to educate himself while in prison, why can't I not take advantage of what I have now. professor your idea for a peer review actually helps out a lot of hearing ideas from your

classmates and what you can do to improve. Peer reviews cause ideas to spread more and give different ways you can do to improve on your writing or genre. Sure, your professor giving you feedback on an assignment is great and useful but with a classmate it benefits the both of us is like hitting two birds with one stone. One other thing that I want to add is that the little comments that you leave on my assignment are helpful because they let me know the mistakes that I've made and how i can improve on that. My latest assignment was the “research and audience” which I think was one of my best assignments and I felt proud of my work and I know I can still improve on it and do it for a better grade. Professor thank you for your help this semester because of you my knowledge of the English Language Art has increased tremendously. I am glad that i was placed in your class because you are a truly kind person and you try in any way that you can to help us. Finally thank you for preparing us for what's coming ahead and preparing me for my future.

Sincerely

Mansur Usman