

WR115

Essay One: Literacy Narrative

ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES

As you begin this essay writing process, reflect on your experiences and attitudes about reading and writing. Some of us have negative early experiences with reading and writing that have affected the ways we feel about reading and writing as adults.. For others of us, reading and writing are treasured skills that come out of a childhood fascination with language and self-expression. Some of us have experienced the strangeness of language in a foreign country, while others have sat in a writing classroom and felt it little different from a foreign country – a place unfamiliar and remote. Regardless of our backgrounds, our ideas of literacy often become deeply engrained as good or bad without much thought from us as to how those views came to be. As a result, many of us have definitions of literacy – of reading and writing – that could benefit from a thoughtful and honest close self-examination.

Topic Choices: please draw from the following as you develop your essay focus:

- Narrate an early memory about writing or reading that you recall vividly. Then explain why this event is significant to you now.
- Describe someone who taught you to read or write and explain this person's significance in your life.
- Identify a book or other text and explain its significance for you in your reading and writing.
- Narrate an experience with a writing or reading task that you found (or still find) difficult or challenging.
- Describe a memento and explain how it represents an important moment in your reading/writing development.

Key Features / Literacy Narrative

- **A well-told story.** Bring your narrative to life by using concrete and vivid details. Details can bring a narrative to life for readers by giving them vivid mental images of the sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and textures of the world in which your story takes place.
- **Narrative's significance.** Make clear why the incident you narrate matters to you now by explaining its significance.
- **Well organized.** Whatever strategy you use (narrative or descriptive), make sure that your organization (beginning, development, and conclusion) is effective, engaging, and clear.
- **Thesis Statement:** State the main idea of your essay somewhere in your introduction in a Thesis Statement. Then make certain that every supporting paragraph relates to and supports that main idea.
- Use **concrete, vivid descriptions** and focus on a **specific event**.
- Consider using dialogue between the characters in your narrative.
- Demonstrate growth and improvement from the first drafts to the final revised draft.
- Write 3 *full* pages, typed, double-spaced, in 12 point font (Times New Roman), generally free of grammatical errors.

Source: Original literacy narrative assignment developed by Greg Rathert