

# Project 1: Literacy Narrative

---

**Rough Draft/Author's Note due: September 3**

**Final Draft Due: September 10**

See more details on the Project 1 rubric.

## **WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?**

In this unit, we will consider what it means to be literate and what impact it has on our lives – not just academically, but also personally. We will also discuss the value of telling stories about our experiences. The stories we tell about ourselves and our experiences shape who we think we are, especially as writers and readers. So, in this narrative, you will explore how a particular form of literacy has shaped your identity and your path toward your future goals, in the hopes of helping you understand how your past experiences have shaped who you are as a writer.

## **WHAT ARE WE DOING?**

You will write a **literacy narrative** about a meaningful experience you have with a form of literacy, a time when you learned, taught, or used this literacy effectively. Tell us the story!

**Remember:** literacy has to do with reading and writing, but it doesn't have to be academic. You can write about the first chapter book you ever read, learning to read and follow a recipe, learning to code, or becoming a songwriter. You want to make sure to tie this experience to your identity--who you believe you are or are becoming--and/or your future goals.

Your essay should have four elements:

- 1) A meaningful story:** focus on one event or experience. This story doesn't have to be positive, but it does need to lead to a meaningful outcome. You want to intentionally organize your story around one main idea, providing details that help explain that main idea.
- 2) Vivid details:** show us, don't just tell us. Give us sensory details, describe the setting, connect us with characters, and show us what they do and say. Grab our attention!
- 3) A connection to your identity:** explain the importance of this experience and this literacy on you as a person. This is a "who am I?" story, so connect this story to who you are now or who you want to become.
- 4) A "so what" for your audience:** tell us the overall significance of this story, not just to you but to others who might have similar stories. Why has this story stuck with you, and what can your readers take away from this story?

All of these elements should work together to give us a narrative of your literacy experience, not just who you were and what you learned, but also who you are now (and maybe who you hope to be) as a writer and reader.

## **HOW LONG SHOULD IT BE? WHEN IS IT DUE?**

Your essay should be **3-5 pages** (~800-1,100 words), **double-spaced, and in MLA format**. Please include a header with your name and the date, as well as a catchy title. It should be submitted as a **Word document**. This project is worth 15% of your grade.

**Rough draft and author's note is due by Friday, 9/3 at 11:59pm** to your group's Project 1 Workshop [discussion forum](#) on Blackboard. (See discussion forum for more information.)

**Final draft is due by Friday, 9/10 at 11:59pm** to the Project 1: Literacy Narrative [Assignment box](#) on Blackboard.