
MEMOIR

A Literacy Narrative

DUE BY 11PM ON 6 OCTOBER 2019 IN BLACKBOARD

WORTH 20% OF TOTAL CLASS GRADE

APPROX. 750-1250 WORDS

ASSIGNMENT:

Write a memoir essay that tells a focused story with some kind of significance to your personal life. The memoir should focus on a specific, limited time period so that you are only telling one story and not your whole autobiography.

For this assignment, you'll be writing a literacy narrative - a subgenre of the memoir. Please tell your audience a story about a specific moment in your life as it relates to reading, writing, or learning. This can be a story about overcoming an obstacle, discovering a love or appreciation for a topic, learning a new language, and more.

YOUR MEMOIR SHOULD DO THE FOLLOWING:

- Organize your story effectively
- Focus on one specific story with a limited time period
- Convey the significance of the story
- Include vivid detail and scenes
- Use the style and tone best suited to your particular story and purpose
- Be sensitive and ethical when using personal details about other people (discuss with your teacher if you have questions about this aspect)

GOALS:

- 1.) Write about at least one (1) specific moment or well-defined period of time in your life which affected your relationship with reading, writing, language, or some aspect of your education or career path.
- 2.) Demonstrate your knowledge of elements of the rhetorical triangle as they apply to this writing assignment, particularly pathos, while

adhering to supporting your writerly ethos of care and responsibility to your audience through effective use of grammar, syntax, and spelling to support.

- 3.) Work through the writing process by brainstorming, drafting, reviewing, revising, and editing your writing.
- 4.) Use descriptive language to produce an interesting, engaging piece of writing.
- 5.) Consider the significance of the story you are telling your audience, that is, both what happened and why this story matters.

AUDIENCE AND PURPOSE:

While I'll certainly be reading this as your instructor, let's imagine that your audience is the audience of your high school graduation and that you're reading this to them. Think about how telling this story aloud to an audience will affect your language, tone, and subject matter.

Later, you'll be revising this essay for publication on your ePortfolio website with the potential for a larger audience outside your class.

We all have different backgrounds and experiences. This memoir is your chance to expand the world of your audience. Let them see and understand a new perspective on the world.

FORMAT:

Follow MLA format -- paper should be typed, double-spaced, 12-pt Times New Roman font or other similar font, standard 1" margins. You should include in-text citations and a works cited page if you find the need to reference any outside ideas or language. We will work on an Internet-appropriate format later in the semester.

EXAMPLES OF LITERACY NARRATIVES:

A SHORT EXAMPLE OF MY OWN EXPERIENCES WITH LITERATURE:

I started to read novels at a pretty young age, locked in an ever-escalating Accelerated Reader point battle between myself and red-haired, freckled-faced Danny Larkin. I skipped *The Babysitter's Club*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, and *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* for classic literature. It means that when my classmates were reading magazines, watching teen movies, and immersing themselves in pop culture, I was planning my latests victory over Danny Larkin by starting a novel late Friday night. This also meant that I was slowly disconnecting myself from my friends and my peers until they seemed to possess some esoteric language, which was, you know, hella cray, but, like, whatever. I thought I didn't need to know what they were talking about n-e-wayz. By the time I hit college, I'd read more novels than anyone else than I knew, but I couldn't sing the lyrics to a single number one hit, list any of the Backstreet Boys or N*Sync with any reliability, or do the Cha-Cha Slide. And so, I sat amongst my group of friends, even as high school stretched and snapped into my college years, as much silent spectator in my own life as I had ever been of any book I had ever read. It wasn't a good feeling.

OTHER EXAMPLES:

- There are several examples in your textbook
- [The Digital Archive of Literacy Narratives](#) for more examples.