

### Digital Archive of Literacy Narratives Assignment

The Digital Archive of Literacy Narratives is a “publicly available archive of personal literacy narratives in a variety of formats (text, video, audio) that together provide a historical record of the literacy practices and values of contributors, as those practices and values change.” Started in 2008 by the Ohio State University Libraries, the DALN is still very active today and has over 5,600 entries. The DALN defines the genre of literacy narratives as “stories about how—and in what circumstances—[contributors] read, write, and compose meaning, and how they learned to do so (or helped others learn).”

Your task is to explore the DALN and find a compelling literacy narrative that gives you insight into the contributor’s experience with literacy as well as literacy narratives as a genre. Once you have chosen a particular literacy narrative write about the following and post to the discussion board on Canvas:

- Summary: Give a brief summary of the literacy narrative and why you chose to study it.
- Rhetorical situation: Why did the contributor participate in the DALN? Why might they have chosen this particular experience for their literacy narrative? Who is the audience for this piece? What are the contributors goals for sharing their literacy narrative? These questions might be answered explicitly by the narrative, implied by it, or you may have to speculate.
- Genre conventions: Based on this example of a literacy narrative, what are some of the genre conventions? How do they fit with the ones that we have discussed in class.
- Medium: Contributions to the the DALN come in a variety of forms—text, video, and audio—and some come in more than one medium. Consider how the medium/s contribute to the presentation of the literacy narrative. Why did the contributor choose this/these medium/s? How does the medium affect the contents and/or form of the narrative? If the narrative appears in more than one medium; how do they compliment each other, what does each provide? How does/do the medium/s affect your experience consuming the narrative?

On Thursday, you will give a brief presentation of your experience with the DALN and what you learned from the literacy narrative you studied. Make sure to touch on these points:

- ❖ Your process for looking through the DALN and how you chose your literacy narrative.
- ❖ Something in particular that spoke to you about the literacy narrative.
- ❖ What you learned from the literacy narrative.
- ❖ How this will inform your understanding of literacy/language and power going forward.