

Unit 1: Personal Literacy

WA 1: Responding to Literacy Narratives

Over the course of this unit, we have explored a variety of literacy narratives. As we have discussed, literacy narratives allow writers to come to terms with their own experiences, make sense of other's, and expound on the complications of this thing we call "literacy." Ultimately, we've learned that the language we use, how we acquire it, and our relationship to it is infinitely complicated, varied, and personal. As we continue, it is important to consider your personal views on literacy and to recognize that the people we work with might have different ideas of and experience with literacy.

Now, it is your turn to contribute to this conversation on and about literacy and identity. Your response will be a 4-6 page piece that engages with the issues we've been reading about and discussing. Because literacy is so personal and gives us agency in our presentation and voice, you will be choosing from a variety of genres.

Options:

1. Literacy Narrative or Event: Write about your own experience developing your literacy over time or a particular event. Use the literacy narratives that we studied in class to construct your personal story about literacy. You can also refer to the writing assignment on page 29 of *The Call to Write* for additional questions to consider.
2. Analysis of a Literacy Practice: Critically examine a literacy practice. All the literacy narratives we read implicitly concern literacy practices of a person and/or group. For this, you will choose a literacy practice that you are familiar with, either through use or observation, and analyze its structures and implications. Use Margaret J. Finder's "Note-Passing Struggles for Status" and the section on "Analyzing Literacy Events and Practices" on page 29 of *Call to Write* for additional guidance.
3. Commentary on Literacy Narratives, Events, or Practices: Pull out a common theme from at least three sources (readings from this class, outside the course, and/or from your own experience) and write a commentary analyzing and interpreting the pattern. Use Chapter 9, "Commentary," from *The Call to Write* for examples of different types of commentaries, prompts, exercises, and strategies for writing in the "Writing Assignment" section, and genre conventions.

Requirements:

- 4-6 pages (no less, no more!)
- Must follow the conventions of your chosen genre
- Include an original title
- MLA format for document, in-text citations, and Works Cited page
- Use 12 pt, Times New Roman or Times, double spacing, and numbered pages.

First Draft due Thursday, January 28

Revision along with first draft, peer review, and rhetorical reflection due Thursday, February 4.

Objectives:

- Explore how literacy and language shape identity and some of the issues surrounding language and power
- Build a platform for understanding different forms of and relationships with literacy
- Come to terms with our own ideas about literacy and to critically analyze literacy practices
- Continue developing rhetorical and genre awareness, writing persona based on genre, and audience awareness
- Continue refining peer review skills, recognizing writing as a process, and learning collaboratively