

                                   Assignment #1 – Literacy Essay (2 - 3 pages)

First Draft Due: September 7

Final Draft Due: September 19

See: *Norton Field Guide* chapter 10 (literacy narrative)

Bring a printed copy to class and upload a Word Doc copy to Blackboard before the start of class (12:30pm) on due dates.

Students will write an autobiographical essay focusing on an important or memorable experience with reading or writing. Key features of a literacy narrative include a well-told story using vivid detail (five senses) and an indication of why the event or events that took place are significant to the narrator. See pp. 83 – 84 of the *Norton Field Guide* for a more detailed explanation. Then, bring in a “second lens.” A second lens could be an outside text that puts your individual experience in sociological context or it could be the narration of an event that a family member or peer experienced that echoes or contrasts with your narrative. Sociological context, in this case, means a consideration of at least one of the following factors: race, gender, sexuality, class, religion, nationality, immigration status, or ability.

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|  | **Does your essay narrate a single, specific incident in the form of a story?**  |
|  | **Do you incorporate vivid details (e.g. five senses)?** |
|  | **Does your essay explain why the narrated event was significant?** |
|  | **Do you add a second lens to frame your narrative in a sociological context?**  |
|  | **Does your paper’s conclusion summarize the work you presented?** Does your conclusion offer new insight on the subject?  |
|  | **Is your paper’s structure well-organized and coherent?** (see examples of basic literary narrative structures on pp. 88 – 89) |
|  | **Is your writing polished (few or no errors in grammar, punctuation, and word usage)?**  |
|  | **Does it meet basic technical requirements?** (Was it submitted on time? Does it meet the length requirement? Is it 12-point, Times New Roman, double-spaced, standard margins, pages stapled together?) |