

Draft Workshop: Essay 1: Literacy Narrative

Student author's name: _____

MLA Format

- Upper left-hand corner of first page (*only!*), student name, my name, name of the course, date of the draft.
- Header of each page, in the upper righthand corner, include student's last name and the page number (in Times New Roman).
- Works Cited on the last page (if necessary), correctly formatted.
- 1-inch margins
- The font Times New Roman
- 12-point type
- Double spaced text
- No extra space between paragraphs

Comments about MLA Format:

Focus

- The essay is about something that happened in the author's life *with regard to the act of reading, the act of writing, or both*. (In other words, it is a *literacy* narrative.)
- There is a clear focus to the essay. Can you explain, in one sentence, what the point of the essay is?

Comments on the focus of the essay:

Narrative Quality, 1

A well-told story

- Sets up a situation that needs to be resolved and then explains how that resolution happened.
- Carefully describes the sequence of events taking place.

Vivid detail

- Describes – as appropriate – the sights, sounds, smells, tastes and textures of the scene.
- Includes dialogue spoken by the people involved.

Some explanation of significance

- Explains why this particular narrative is important to the author.
- Explains how this narrative might be perceived as important by the essay's audience.

Narrative Quality, 2

The following is not an outline of how to organize your essay. It's a checklist of things that make a good story.

- Characters:** Memorable, described fully, obviously relevant to the story.
- Conflict:** For example, a problem that needs to be overcome, a disagreement that needs to be resolved, or a mystery that needs to be solved.
- Climax:** The moment of change that takes place in the story; for example, a realization, a solution, a experience of growth in skills or maturity.
- Conclusion:** A description of how things are different after the climax, positive or negative.
- Clincher:** An explanation of the importance of the story and what it describes.

Comments on narrative quality: