

Literacy Narrative

- **Due date #1: January 27**, 2 copies of a complete draft for draft workshop
- **Due date #2: February 3**, Revised draft to be graded
- **Length:** 450 to 600 words
- **Format:** MLA Style

Purpose

This assignment give you structured practice in thinking critically about reading & writing and your own experience with these practices. The process of reflection, drafting, and revision with give you an opportunity to formally organize your thoughts about this topic and think about the possible relationships between your past experiences as a reader & writer and the future that you want to pursue.

Description

As Jill Adams writes in *Bridging the Difference*, writing a memoir means "creating a story that is based on something that really happened to you." This assignment requires you to identify, reflect upon, and then write about an event or experience that affected you in a meaningful way, made you see the world differently, changed your opinion about something important, or caused you to think long and hard about a topic that had never concerned you before **Specifically, you will write about something that happened in your life with regard to the act of reading, the act of writing, or both.**

A good personal narrative like this should provide the following:

- **A well-told story:** set up a situation that needs to be resolved and then explain the way in which that resolution happened; carefully describe the sequence of events taking place;
- **Vivid detail:** describe the sights, sounds, smells, tastes and textures of the scene; include dialogue spoken by the people involved;
- **Some explanation of significance:** because it's your life, these events are important to you, but you should also make sure to explain why they are important to you and how they might be perceived of as important by your audience.

Additionally, you should take Adams' advice to provide both *summary* and *scene*:

- **Summary:** "A general overview of events, so the reader gets just a general sense of what happened."
- **Scene:** "A particular moment in time [where] we see everything that happens to the main characters."

MLA Format

Be sure to format your paper according to MLA guidelines: 1-inch margins, the font Times New Roman, 12-point type, double spaced text, indented first lines for every paragraph. In the upper lefthand corner of your first page, type your name, my name, the name of the course, and the date of the draft. In the header of each page, in the upper righthand corner, include your last name and the page number.