

## Unit 1: We Are **ALL** Writers

### Literacy Narrative Assignment Overview

*Who are you as a writer and, more importantly, why? How have your habits, perceptions, values, and language use been shaped by your education, culture, family, community, access, and other factors? What agency do you have in shaping and re-shaping these values, habits, perceptions, and language use?*

The first unit in Composition I will provide you with the opportunity to consider these questions (and more) as you write an essay responding to the unit's culminating guiding question: **How have I become the writer (or reader or student if you prefer) I am today?**

The best narrative essays do three things:

- 1) Tell a story.
- 2) Observe details closely.
- 3) Make a point.

There are a number of ways to arrange your essay. For example, your essay may take the shape of a personal narrative, illustrating how a specific sponsor of literacy (like a role model or an important place in your life) or an experience (like winning a poetry contest or receiving harsh criticism on a paper) shaped your early perceptions of what it means to be a writer (for good or bad), reflecting on the lasting impact the sponsor or experience has had on you. You may even find that your essay culminates with a plan for how you can become the writer (reader or student) you want to be or a broader argument about the nature of language, literacy, or education. We will spend class time discussing ideas and working through drafting processes.

Your final draft should be no fewer than 700 words and no more than 1000 words (3-4 pages), and the document should be formatted according to MLA style, including the heading and page numbers, header, and line spacing. Though they are not required, should you choose to use outside sources in your Unit 1 essay, you should introduce them in your text, but need not provide a Works Cited page. Please include the final word count in your heading next to the assignment title..

Create a folder in your class Google Folder and title it "Unit 1." Save each draft of your paper (peer review draft, polished draft, and if you do another draft, final draft) individually in the folder (ex. "Unit 1: Peer Review Draft."). You can do this easiest by going to "File" then "Make a Copy." This will help you keep up with your portfolio. Rest assured, we will talk through this more in class.

#### **Assignment Highlights:**

- Address the question: How have I become the writer (or reader or student) I am today? ●
- 700-1000 words, MLA formatting with final word count next to the assignment title. ●
- Organization, style, and tone is up to the writer.

#### **Deadlines:**

Early Draft Due: Thursday, Jan. 23 Peer

Review Draft Due: Tuesday, Jan. 28

Polished Draft Due: Thursday, Jan. 30

Final Draft Due by no later than Feb.

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