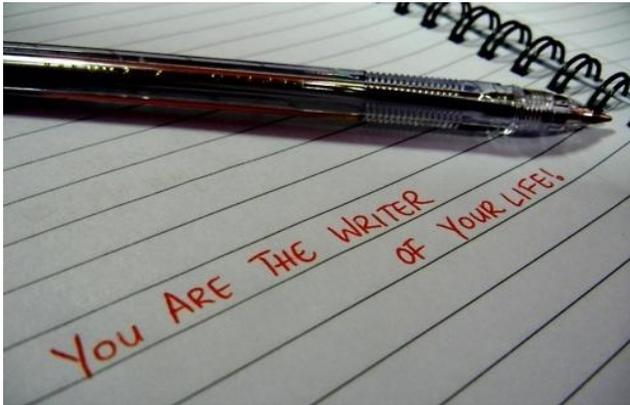


## Project 1: Digital Literacy Narrative



**Overview:** For this assignment, you will produce a multimodal essay in the genre of a digital literacy narrative. A literacy narrative is a reflective, personal story about learning how to read, write, interact with technology and so on. It often focuses on particular events, texts, persons that influenced your literacy practices. Your assignment is to create a digital literacy narrative that provides a brief history in your literacy development and a few highlights that shaped you as a writer. You also need to include critical reflections on

how your attitudes about literacy developed through your past experiences. This assignment asks you to consider questions related to your past and future relationship with writing, reading, interaction with technologies and so on. For example,

- What has been the role of writing in your life so far?*
- What have your past experiences (negative or positive) with writing, reading, English classes (etc.) been like? How have such experiences shaped your attitude about writing?*
- How did you learn to read?*
- Who or what played an important role in your literacy development?*

Such questions should also lead you to investigate your future relationship with writing, reading, technologies:

- How might you re-imagine or continue your relationship with writing/ reading/ technologies or any other literacy types in the future to help you accomplish specific goals and/ or ambitions?*
- Where do you want writing to take you?*

This section will ask you to reflect on at least one community or profession you want to join and to think about how writing/reading/technology (literacy in general) might be a tool to help you become a member of that community by setting specific goals for yourself.

These questions should help you reflect on the subject at hand and write about your personal experiences to come to a better understanding of the role literacy has and will play in your life. The essay itself should operate in **narrative** and **reflective** styles of writing: Employ a descriptive, narrative style to tell a story about your past by bringing in sensory and evocative details of memories. Work in a reflective style to use personal experience to make a point about your future relationship with writing. Think of the following audiences for this essay: yourself; someone in your life you look up to (and I encourage you to share this essay with that person); the professor and your classmates, public audience of DALN (if you choose to submit your essay there).

Unsure how to think about adding in video, photos, and/or audio to this project? Your multimodal literacy narrative could take multiple forms. It could be as simple as a Microsoft Word document that integrates images or, if you're feeling up to the challenge, a video created and edited on your phone using Windows MovieMaker or iMovie. As an IUP student, you have access to multiple programs and application for digital writing/editing. The Microsoft Office 365 Suite, for example, provides you access to PowerPoint, Sway, and Word. All three of these applications would be a great choice for this project! To access Office 365, visit <https://office.live.com/> and log in with you IUP credentials.

## **Process**

- Engage with memories of your past relationship with writing, reading, technologies, and or English classes to help shape a story (narrative) about your past experiences.
- Study some of the narrative techniques made in the personal essays we read as a class from DALN. Try to apply such techniques to your own writing. Read like a writer.
- We will workshop your in-progress drafts so you can get feedback before submitting the final draft.
- As we read more in the class, and get to know each other better, think about how you might like to change or develop your relationship and/or attitude with writing in your future.
- Brainstorm possible ways that writing can help you achieve your goals.
- Think about how you might connect these two sections in your essay, and how the entire piece works towards a coherent theme or “center of gravity.”
- We will have a formal peer review of the whole rough draft so you can get feedback on your whole essay before turning it in as a final draft.
- Revise based on the feedback you receive from peer review.
- Write a reflective cover letter

## **A note on Reflective Cover Letter**

In addition to submitting your narrative, I would like you to submit a reflective cover letter that introduces the assignment. This 300-400 word text should be written as a letter to me. You'll begin with "Dear Prof. Vetter" and conclude with "Sincerely, Your Name." In this letter, you'll want to reflect on your experience with this project. While you are not required to answer any or all of these questions, they will provide you with a starting point if you aren't sure what to say in the letter:

- What was it like to engage in this project? What aspects have you found easy/difficult?
- How do you feel about narrative writing style?
- Is there anything you'd like me to know about the process of completing this project, or any kinds of specific feedback you'd like to receive on it?
- What did you learn from this process that you could transfer to future assignments in this class or other classes?

Write this as a cover letter with several well-developed paragraphs. I will read your cover letter before I review your project and use it to inform my feedback.

## Evaluation Criteria

- Essay demonstrates engagement with narrative and reflective styles of writing to come to realizations about literacy
- Essay works within the genre of the personal essay and is organized around a controlling idea or theme. That is, your essay should try to come to a central realization or point by the end of the essay
- Essay is well-organized and contains transitions and topic sentences to help guide the reader
- Essay demonstrates evidence of careful reflection and multi-draft writing process
- Essay meets length requirements (900-1200 words) and is carefully proofread
- Essay includes a thoughtful and creative title that emphasizes its controlling idea or theme.
- Essays may incorporate footage, images (photos, scans of books, papers, report cards, etc.), voiceover, music, videos
- You can also submit your final narrative for publication to the Digital Archive of Literacy Narratives (DALN - <https://www.thedaln.org/>), a public archive of literacy narratives, and share your work with the class
- No source requirement