

Multimodal Language & Literacy Narrative

FIQWS | WATSON & NIVENS | FALL 2023 | PHASE 1

*As people tell literacy stories, they also formulate their
own sense of self; with each telling, this self changes.*
— Cynthia Selfe

Overview

This assignment will be broken up into **two** parts: a **Written** Language and Literacy Narrative (WLLN) and a **Spoken** Language and Literacy Narrative (SLLN)

Length

WLLN: 2.5 - 3 Pages | SLLN: 2.5 - 3 Minutes

Due Dates

First **FULL** draft of your WLLN: **Thurs. Sept. 14**

First **FULL** draft of your SLLN: **Tues. Sept. 19**

FINAL draft of SLLN: **Tues. Sept. 26**

FINAL draft of WLLN (with cover letter): **Fri. Sept. 29**

PORTFOLIO VERSION of WLLN(with cover letter): **Tues. Oct 24**



Language and Literacy Narrative Overview

Assignment Introduction

Our perspectives on language and literacy don't arise out of thin air. How and why we learned and presently "do" speaking, reading, and writing depends on our individual backgrounds, experiences, and motivations: where and how we grew up and what we want out of life, language, and literacy.

And it depends on societal realities, including dominant beliefs that deem some language "good" and others not. We never speak, read, or write in isolation—there is always some history, issue, person, structure, institution, standard, or belief system affecting our language and literacy habits and choices.

One way to reflect on the reading, writing, and language experiences that shape a part of who we are today is to narrate these experiences.

Assignment Prompt

For this assignment, you will compose **two separate yet interconnected** language and literacy narratives: one delivered in **writing**, and one delivered in **speech**. You're asked in this assignment to **zoom into a particular moment** from your life.

1. What moments stand out to you when it comes to how you use language and literacy?
2. Can you recall any family, cultural, or social events related to reading or writing that you found enlightening, encouraging, awkward, challenging, or unjust?
3. A key language or literacy moment when positive or negative emotions soared, where you struggled or triumphed?
4. An object or artifact that serves as a memory of a place, activity, or person connected to your language and literacy development?

Written Language and Literacy Narrative

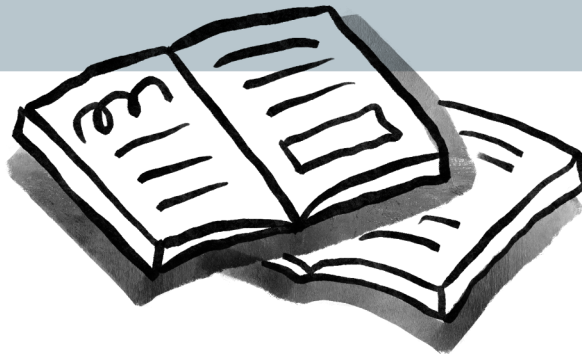
Assignment Details

Your **written** narrative should be **2.5-3 pages** and must contain:

1. A carefully crafted and revised story of a **specific** moment, event, or experience.
2. Vivid **details** that draw your readers into the scene.
3. **Three (or more) materials and media** to support your narrative, such as pictures of artifacts, images, links, video clips, quotes, sound bites, etc. (As all of your major assignments will be placed on a Wordpress site you develop, so creating multimodal texts is important.)
4. **Your interpretations of the larger social significance** of the event chosen. (After all, our individual narratives reflect larger trends in society, history, where you grew up, and identities like gender, race, culture, linguistic background, and ability. (Your interpretations may be explicitly included in your narrative or implied. But if left implied, be sure to be explicit about these connections in your Cover Letter.)

Cover Letter

Your Written L&L Narrative should be preceded by a Cover Letter when you submit the final version. Refer to the Cover Letter assignment sheet in our course materials.



Spoken Language and Literacy Narrative

Assignment Details

You will present some version of your language and literacy narrative to the class. The purpose is for you to practice getting comfortable speaking to a group and for everyone to get to know each other a little better.

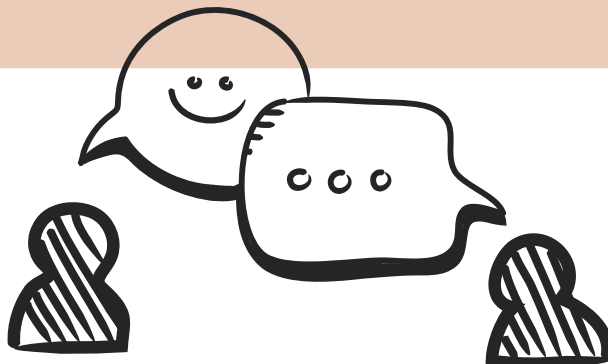
Content and Format Options

- read your favorite lines from your written narrative and explain the significance
- write an entirely new narrative
- reenact a moment from your language and literacy past
- read/perform lyrics that you or someone else wrote that captures something about your language/literacy identity.

Requirements

- Your SLLN should be no longer than **3 minutes**
- **Include the use of 1 (or more) multimodal aide(s)** like photos/objects, text, music, or presentation slides.
- Be delivered “live” in class **OR** presented as a pre-recorded video (just please email the file to your instructor 24 hours in advance).

Remember who your audience is (your classmates and instructors) and tailor your presentation to fit the audience and context of the assignment.



Additional Information

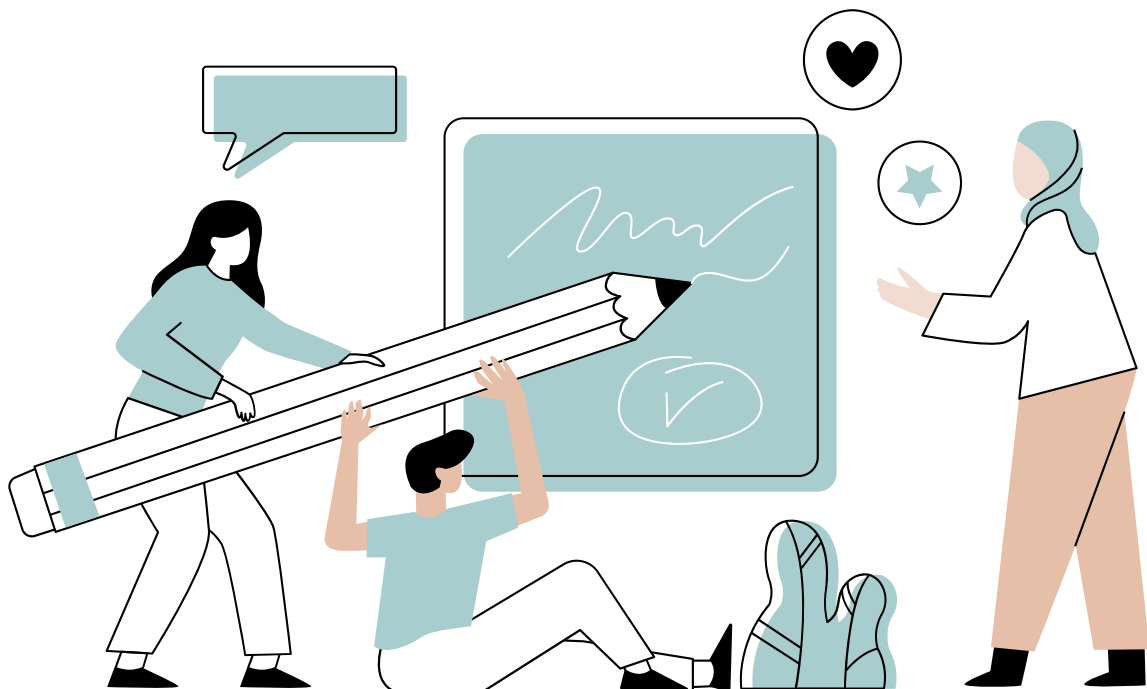
Personalize Your Narrative

THE MOMENT you choose to write about forms the basis of your literacy narrative, so it should be a subject matter that you are comfortable sharing.

THE REFLECTIONS you include in your narrative or cover letter are important. They will help readers make sense of the moment's significance and implications.

THE DESIGN AND DELIVERY of your written and spoken narratives should be **personalized** as you see fit.

- You're encouraged to carefully consider your **tone** and **language choices**.
- You're welcome to use your “native,” “home,” or “other” languages, literacies, and ways of being as you so choose.



Assessment Rubric

1. Appropriate Focus and Rhetorical Effectiveness of the Written Narrative

How effectively does the written narrative provide 1-2 concrete examples and specific details of the writer's language/literacy experiences? How effectively does the narrative attend to description? How effectively does the narrative appeal to the intended audience?

2. Explicit Commentary on Significance and Implications

How effectively does the written narrative highlight some central idea about a larger social significance? How well does the narrative implicitly or explicitly comment on the larger implications of the story, signaling connections to national trends or to the writer's life, family, generation, gender, race, culture, linguistic background, ability, and/or geographic location?

3. Appropriate Focus and Rhetorical Effectiveness of the Spoken Narrative

How effectively does the spoken presentation draw classmates into the writer's language/literacy experiences? How effectively are the 3 minutes utilized?

4. Use of Multimedia

How effectively do the written and spoken narratives integrate multiple modes (not just speech vs. writing but also the use of pictures, images, objects, props, links, and music)?

5. General Requirements

Were all requirements for length and due date met?