

Digital Archive of Literacy Narratives

A collaborative project with
Graduate Composition Theory and Praxis

Columbia 
COLLEGE CHICAGO

Compose
Contribute
Collaborate



Digital/Multimodal Literacy Narrative Assignment

As you know from taking a peek at the literacy narratives in the DALN and from the *Stories that Speak to Us* collection, a literacy narrative is a personal story about reading or composing or other literacies in any form or context. So, now it is your turn to compose your own literacy narrative, in digital/multimodal form, for submission to the DALN.

Step 1: Generate Ideas

Keep in mind that literacy narratives can be about any experience with literacy and language -- print, digital, oral. They can be happy, funny, or sad. Your story should focus on a powerful memory – a story you can tell rather than a simple chronology of your literate life.

Here are some questions to get you started:

- As a writer, what literacies have shaped your life and your interests? Is there a literacy story that can help us understand how you ended up here in an MFA program in creative writing?
- What has the experience of becoming “literate” in something been like for you? Can you tell a story about that process—when something really “clicked” or when something just wasn’t working at all?
- Do you have an “aha” moment about literacies, print or digital, in your life? Do you remember an experience that helped you turn a corner or achieve something, in school or out of school, related to some aspect of literacy or language learning?
- How do these things connect to a larger “something” about literacies that you want to share?

Step 2: Consider HOW you want to tell your story

You are a writer. Of course you want to write your story. However, as you embark on the journey of learning to teach other people how to write, it is not a bad idea to move yourself out of your comfort zone and experience what it feels like to compose in a mode or form that feels unfamiliar to you or one in which you are not necessarily recognized as “good at.”

Your literacy narrative must be created digitally and multimodally, using the juxtaposition of image, moving image, sound, and text (and oh if only taste and smell) in some kind of digital form so that it can be uploaded to the DALN. The questions below should help you begin to frame and plan the development of your literacy narrative.

Digital Multimodal Literacy Narrative Guiding Questions

1. What is your story? What idea/ideas about literacy do you hope to convey? What is your focus? How do you conceive of a “conceptual metaphor” for the piece?
2. What emotional or intellectual effect do you hope to achieve in your audience? How might you go about doing that?
3. What do you need to do to make that effect/experience happen given the constraints of your time, resources, and digital knowledge? How are you willing to modify your ideas to fit within those constraints?
4. What is the most effective way for you to plan and/or storyboard your piece?
5. What are the different components/assets (audio, image, video, alphabetic text) of your piece and what are their relationships to each other? How are these components/assets particularly suited to the message you want to convey in this piece? How will you juxtapose them so that they work together to effectively convey your idea?
6. How do you plan to ensure that you are ethically and legally using digital source material? You should be working with public domain and Creative Commons resource materials or creating your own original materials. Keep citation information about your assets/components in the same way you would keep a print bibliography.

Step 3: Tell It! Compose it! Submit it!

When your literacy narrative is complete (and no later than December 13), you are required to submit it to the DALN. To submit your literacy narrative, you must first register with the DALN, a simple process that requires only a valid e-mail address (<http://daln.osu.edu/register>).

Once you have registered, you can login and submit a narrative (in multiple file formats). In the informed consent process will have the opportunity to submit using your own name or to create an anonymous submission. You can also Creative Commons license your work. However you chose to go through the process, when you are asked to tag your submission with key words, include **CCCCTP**, as one of the tags.

Evaluation

Your literacy narrative will be evaluated on the extent to which you thoughtfully and creatively craft a meaningful narrative about literacy or literacies in your life. Many of you will be taking new risks in composing with digital technologies, so evidence of your

care and thoughtful intent in creating the final piece will be judged rather than your skills in producing a text with digital composing tools.