

## **Low Stakes Assignment #1: Personal Literacy Narrative**

In this short reflective essay, you will go a little deeper into the question of who you are as a writer. The purpose of this essay is for you to reflect on yourself as a literate person (as a writer and a reader of texts) and to offer your professor a glimpse of this history.

### **The Prompt:**

In a 500-word essay, explain how you came to be the reader and writer you are today. Explain the experiences that shaped you into the person who is taking this class.

The exact format of the reflection is up to you, but here are some things to consider as you draft this response:

- What kind of reader and writer are you today? What are your strengths as a reader and producer of texts? What aspects of writing would you like to improve?
- How did you become this literate person? What educational, personal, and professional experiences influenced you?

### **Tips to Remember:**

1. As you plan your response, try to be specific and offer examples to illustrate your points. An anecdote or two can go a long way toward explaining how a specific experience shaped you.
2. Focus the response around a particular picture of yourself as a writer: think of this as a kind of informal thesis statement. Then, in the body paragraphs, use details from your writing history to bring this picture into focus.
3. Remember that while you should take your time with this response, and do your best work, it is not meant to be a formal, high-stakes assignment. So try not to stress about it or to procrastinate; use it as an opportunity to learn about yourself as a writer and to communicate that to your professor

