

Digital Literacy Narrative & Audio Story (150 points)

Requirements

- 1200-1700 words
- One source from class
- 60-second Audio File
- Cover Letter
- MLA Formatting

Dates

- Workshop: 1/27
- Workshop: 2/3
- Rough Draft: 2/3 (via Blackboard)
- Digital Studio Visit: 2/10
- Conference: 2/17-2/21
- Final Draft: 2/27



Goals

- Experiment composing in multimedia
- Explore topics in media studies and critically examine media culture and its implications.
- Reflect on writing and its processes in order to cultivate an effective personal writing style and process.

Purpose

For this assignment, you will explore your digital literacies and the ways they changed the ways you valued reading, writing, composing, creating, information, and communication. In order to do so, you'll need to investigate your history with technology, media, platforms, and other tools. Then, you'll reflect on those experiences to demonstrate the ways you changed your habits, behaviors, writing, and communication as a result. Finally, the paper should demonstrate the values you place on media, culture, and writing. When you're finished, you'll create a 60 second audio file that captures the essence of your narrative.

Getting Started

There is no set structure or format for this paper. Instead, this paper invites you to investigate your own experiences with technology, reading, writing, culture, and communities. Because of this, there are lots of ways into this paper. Consider the following options for getting started:

- Think about a medium, such as books, television, film, music, etc., that has been especially impactful on your development as a reader, writer, and person. How has that medium changed or been influenced by digital media and culture? How have you changed as a result? How have your interactions with people, places, or information changed as a result? What have you learned about reading, writing, identity, other people, or the world?
- Think about some experiences you've had with technology or media that have been profound or influential. What was your first experience with a computer? What was it like? How did it change your attitude toward information or the ways in which people encounter information? How are your

experiences different (or similar) to these early experiences? What was true about media culture then? What is true now?

- Provide an historical overview of your experiences with technology and some reflections on how it has changed you, your writing and reading habits, and your outlook on the world.

However you decide to get started, the goal of this assignment is to critically engage your experiences with media and technology. That is, tell us the stories that seem most important to you, and then reflect on those experiences to demonstrate how they changed your perspectives.

Sources and Keywords

For this assignment, you are required to draw on at least one reading we've done together in class. You may find additional readings if you so choose, but you are not required to. All sources should be cited in-text and in a Works Cited page using MLA format (or something that resembles it). You will not be penalized for incorrect citation, but you will be penalized for missing citations.

As you're drafting, make sure you're using keywords from our class discussion and readings to make meaning of your experiences. Consider the words "screen" and "page," for example, and the different kinds of experiences and information each one promises. It's important that you use the readings and your experiences effectively to demonstrate something new or interesting about media culture.

Audio Story

In addition to the print essay for this assignment, you'll be creating an audio story that would share your literacy narrative with a larger audience. You are not required to use sources for this portion of the assignment, but you are expected to create a polished and interesting file – this could mean adding music, sound effects, or other bells and whistles.

We'll visit the Digital Studio for a brief introduction to sound editing software, but you are strongly encouraged to make your own appointment to work on this portion of the project.

You are invited to submit your narrative to the Digital Archive of Literacy Narratives. Students who submit and provide proof of their submission will receive 5 points extra credit.

Cover Letter

This project will include a reflective cover letter wherein you address me to discuss the following: the purpose of your project (why did you write it? What do you hope readers take away from it? What do you think the paper proves/demonstrates/reveals?), the audience of your paper (who would benefit from reading this? How did you meet that audience's needs?), the strengths of the paper (what is working really well? Why do you think it works so well?), and the weaknesses of the paper (what isn't working so well? What would you change if you had more time and why? The letter should also address your writing process, the changes you made based on peer or instructor response (and why), the changes you did not make based on peer or instructor response (and why). For this project, the letter should also briefly detail the choices you made in composing your audio file, the strengths and weaknesses of your audio file, and a brief discussion of what you learned about reading, writing, and media from composing for audio. This reflective letter should be about 750 words and does not count towards the final word count of the essay.

Drafts, Workshops, and Conferences

As always, missing a workshop or conference, or failure to turn in a rough draft will result in a 10 percent deduction from the final grade.