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### Digital Language & Literacy Narrative

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# FIQWS F18 – PHASE 1 ASSIGNMENT PROMPT

## DIGITAL LANGUAGE & LITERACY NARRATIVE ASSIGNMENT

### About the assignment:

There is much that informs our perspectives on language and literacy. How and why we learned and presently “do” speaking, reading, and writing depends just as much on societal realities (including dominant beliefs that deem some language “good” and others not) as it does our individual backgrounds, experiences, and motivations (e.g., where and how we grew up and what we want out of life and literacy). We never speak, read, or write in isolation—there is always some issue, person, structure, institution, standard, history, or belief system affecting our language and literacy practices.

You are tasked for this assignment to compose two separate yet interconnected products: the Digital Language & Literacy Narrative (DLLN) and the accompanying DLLN Reflection Essay. To compose your **Digital Language & Literacy Narrative**, you will reflect on your own background and perceptions of language and literacy, write a narrative based on one or two of your experiences, gather various supporting materials and media (such as artifacts, images, video clips, sound bites, etc.), and use this data to create a short video presenting your narrative. In your DLLN **Reflection Essay**, you will account for, analyze, and reflect on your rhetorical choices made in your DLLN.

### A) DIGITAL LANGUAGE LITERACY NARRATIVE

**The focus:** You are tasked with identifying and analyzing one or two concrete examples of a moment from your life when your encounters with language and literacy was meaningful or memorable. Consider how and why your language and literacy developed the ways it did, and who and what impacted its development.

**The narrative:** Your narrative should contain the following key elements: a thoughtfully crafted story of a specific moment, event, or experience; vivid details; and a discussion of the larger social significance of the event chosen (after all, a compelling narrative reveals a shaping occurrence in a person’s life and so demands consideration and reflection). While you’re asked to narrow your focus on specific moments and themes that you identify, you are encouraged to personalize the delivery of your narrative as you see fit. Thus, you decide the order, tone, style, and language used for the narrative. And, of course, you’re welcome to draw on your “native,” “home,” or “other” languages, literacies, and ways of being as you so choose. You’re invited to use an informal, conversational, and lyrical styles when presenting your narrative; however, the DLLN is not to be delivered “off the cuff” or without careful planning and execution. You are charged with drafting your narrative, using an outline or full script that you read from or memorize.

**The mode and length:** You will produce a multimodal digital narrative, strictly **4-5 minutes** long. In addition to the narrative you compose, you will locate images, sound bites, music, video clips, or

objects that represent your narrative, and you will assemble these using movie-making software. Software may already be available on your computer or phone if you have one (or you may simply need to download it online). Common choices are iMovie (for Mac users) and Windows Live Movie Maker (for PC users). Some free online options (that could be used at home or school) include VirtualDub (for Windows only), VideoLAN Movie Creator, Jahshaka Shotcut, PowToon, and Wondershare Filmora. There are other movie-making software options available for which you can pay (or sign up for free trials).

**Audience and Presentation:** Your video will have a public audience (unless you opt out). The final version of your DLLN will be posted publicly online (to the Digital Archive of Literacy Narratives website: [www.thedaln.org](http://www.thedaln.org) and eventually to your WordPress site for this class), brought to class on a thumb drive, and played for classmates.

### **Important Dates:**

**Monday, September 24** – a full draft (due for peer review)

**Friday, September 28** – final draft is due

\*The assignment is worth **15%** in both your Topic and Writing section.

## **B) DLLN – REFLECTION ESSAY**

### **About the assignment:**

You will write an critical reflection essay that discusses the following:

#### What you learnt

An overview that focuses on the *social significance of your experience*. In other words, connect your experience to something bigger than you—a social trend, historical moment, cultural tradition, economic reality, race, class, language, or beliefs.

#### What rhetorical choices did you make

Indicate *how and why you shaped your narrative for particular audiences* as well as other rhetorical considerations contributed to your digital language literacy narrative—such as order, style, visuals, sound, delivery, text, and persuasive appeal.

**Mode, Audience, and Presentation:** Keep in mind that your Reflection Essay is audience academic (addressed to both your classmates and instructor) and, thus, not quite as “public” as your DLLN. Your writing should attend to academic conventions (i.e., be carefully developed, organized under a centralizing idea/thesis, transitioned, supported, edited). However, you’re still welcome to draw on your “native,” “home,” or “other” languages, literacies, and ways of being as you so choose. The DLLN Reflection Essay will be drafted, reviewed by classmates, and revised before being submitted. The final should be **2-3 pages**.

**Important Dates:**

**Monday, October 1** – a full draft of the Reflection Essay is due for peer review

**Friday, October 5** – final draft is due

\* This assignment is worth **5%** in both your Topic and Writing sections.