Writing a Literacy Narrative

A literacy narrative is telling a story. To be exact, it is giving an account of an experience, most likely a personal one, which tells about a time when reading and/or writing helped you to learn something significant. The main idea of a literacy narrative is to speak about a time you were able to learn and grow from a specific experience.

When writing any sort of essay or paper, it is always necessary to do the following:

✓ Pick a topic that you feel very strongly about but are willing to share.
✓ Title your paper (something suitable to your topic)
✓ Engage the reader (“Show” the reader rather than “telling” the reader.)
✓ Give vivid descriptions throughout the essay. Use sensory details, such as what you see, smell, touch, etc.
✓ Include dialogue, but use it sparingly. Dialogue is most effective when it is only used for key moments. Remember to punctuate dialogue correctly. For example: “I don’t know what happened, but I’m not going to give up,” Jasmine said.

Know that an important tool in narratives is imagery, which can be defined as visually descriptive language. These details are important because recalling a day such as this shows it’s importance to you, allowing the reader somewhat of an emotional connection to the event. This method is called reflecting. Whenever you’re writing an essay that involves something from your past, it is vital that you ask yourself these following questions:

1. What do I want to do?
2. What made me want to start doing this?
3. What were the important details of this event?
4. How do I fill in the missing blanks?
5. What can I say to have a solid finishing point?

Here’s a Brief Example: When I was seven years old, my father’s car got a flat tire during a snowstorm. Luckily the heat was working so we didn’t freeze to death as we waited for my Uncle Denny to come and help us out. I remember hating that red 1997 Hyundai for one simple fact; the radio didn’t work. My dad began to hum the lyrics to one of my favorite songs, Ribbon in the Sky, by Stevie Wonder. Instantly I began to sing the words, just as I did to myself whenever I took a shower, thinking nothing of it of course. But as the words freely flowed out, I saw my father’s jaw drop in awe of my voice. That was the moment I found truly found out that I was destined to be a singer.

Follow these rules and you will certainly write a successful paper.