

## 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 you 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.

### Ask a QEP Writing Studio Tutor about this topic for more information!

Stop by and see us in 143 Johnson Hall! We offer 30 minute appointments and walk-in hours to GE 102 and GE 103 students Monday – Friday: 9:00-4:00. Or contact us at QEPWritingStudio@mail.ecsu.edu or (252) 335-4326.

We look forward to working with you!