Writing about Literacy Experiences (4+ pages)

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. Literacy narratives can be about reading stories books, cereal boxes, music, or video game cheats. Literacy narratives can be sad or happy, poignant or funny, informative or incidental. Literacy narrative often focus on powerful memories about events, people, situations, places—times when you tried and succeeded or tried and failed; someone who gave you a chance or took one away; situations when someone taught you how to do something or when you taught someone else; churches and schools, contests and performances, plays and public presentations. They are stories about how — and in what circumstances — you learned to read, write, and compose meaning and how you learned to do so (or helped others learn). They can be about writing in your diary, blogs, poetry, music and musical lyrics, fan magazines, school papers, videos, sermons, gaming profiles, speeches, chat room exchanges, text messages, letters, or reading and writing stories. In other words, they are about you and literacy.

The Assignment

After reading Sherman Alexie “Superman and Me” (page 41 of Creative Composition) and David Sedaris “Me Talk Pretty One Day” (page 44 of Creative Composition) create your own creative literacy narrative.

- 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
- Clear purpose and focus. There should be a reason you have chosen your subject. What is so important about them that you have written about them and that your audience wants to read about them?
- A strong lead. You must make the reader want to continue reading after only two or three sentences. (ties in directly with purpose and focus)
- An entertaining story that keeps me engaged. Make the reader care about the story and become emotionally invested. Tap into your inner story teller. Unlike most of the assignments we have had this semester, this one asks you to tell something personal about you and what has made you the person we know today.
- Written from a one point of view (yours).
- What significant thing did you learn because of this literacy experience?
- Clear scene and setting. Where it occurs will help the personal essay move toward your goal as the writer.
- Effective Structure. Your reader must be able to follow the story and enjoy reading it.
- Clear writing that is free of distracting errors

Your essay will be in standard MLA Format and will not require a work cited page