The Literacy Narrative: Writing 1

I would like you to write about your experiences, thoughts, and feelings about the writing and reading that you've done during the course of your life. You will want to focus on an important reading or writing "event" or "events" (i.e. the time you wrote the "perfect" poem in 3rd grade or three poem or songs that have "changed you life"), so that your story has a focus of some kind. Also, from the very beginning think about why you are telling your story and how your story can have a purpose and point past simply “telling your story.”

Be as specific as possible about the story or stories that you tell, and be sure to give the reader enough detail so that she or he can understand your story. Also, be sure to reflect, from the first draft on, on why you are telling your story. You should think of the reader as being someone in this class who doesn't know your history with reading and writing, but that this person would be interested in your reading and writing history if he or she were given enough details, specific information, and reflection about your reading and/or writing experience.

Some Questions You Can Answer:

- Why I like to read poetry, mysteries, sci-fi, romance, etc?
- What is the best piece of writing I've done?
- What is the best poem, story, or other piece of writing I've written and why?
- What would I read repeatedly, and what would I never read again?
- How has reading and writing affected my view of myself?
- What is my favorite time and place to read?
- How has school affected (positively or negatively) my view of reading and writing?
- Who really helped me learn to love, or hate, reading and writing, and how did they do that?

Ultimately, you will produce a two to four page paper (600-1200 words) that describes some specific thing that you have experienced as a writer or reader. This paper will be typed or word-processed, and a draft will be due (a draft being at least two pages of solid writing) on Thursday 1/18/07.

This will not, however, be the last draft you do. You will do an additional draft--after receiving feedback from people in class, me, and anyone else you can get to read your paper. Thus, the final draft will be due on 1/25/06. Each time you write a draft of your paper, your piece should become more focused. Thus, the first draft may seem a little wobbly, which is just fine, but the final draft should have a central idea or theme that it is organized around.

The final draft, due on Thursday 1/25/07, should be free of grammatical errors and in standard MLA or APA format. To do that make sure you do the following:

- Read your piece aloud before you hand it in.
- Be sure to have a heading on the first page that includes your full name, the date, the assignment, and my name.
- Make sure that you have page numbers on your piece in the upper right hand corner of every page.
- And--this is the most important thing of all—make sure you write a focused piece of writing that you actually care about. Remember your audience is people in this class--not necessarily me. Please, by all that's holy, write about something you can get into.

I'll use the attached rubric to create a grade (A,B,C,D,F), and I'll include commentary in case you choose to rewrite your piece.

If you have any further questions about the piece, you can reach me via email at cdean@writing.ucsb.edu, or you can reach me via my cell phone at 203-313-1343.

Due Dates

First Draft: 1/18/07  Final Draft: 1/25/07