

English 1102

Major Assignment 3: Community Literacy Project, Interviews and Paper

5 pages.

We tend to think of literacy as reading and writing, but in current scholarship, the definition of literacy has been expanded to incorporate the learning of basically anything from another language to learning how to use a computer. Many of you were asked to write a literacy narrative for 1101. Think back about the topic you chose for that project. Did it involve any aspect of community?

For this project I would like you to investigate a literacy practice unique to a community. Preferably, you will pick a community to which you already belong, since there can be some ethical issues with speaking for a community to which you are an outsider. (If you are interested in investigating a community to which you do not belong, schedule a meeting with me quickly, so that I can discuss how to mitigate the outsider-narrative problems.) Even though I am encouraging you to work with a community to which you belong, there are some important cautions.

1. Be respectful.
2. Be respectful! (It bears repeating.)
3. Never enter into a situation that could be potentially harmful to you or the community.
4. Always get written permission for your interviews. (We will construct the form in class, together.)
5. Enjoy your primary research process.

Your task for this project will be to first identify the literacy practice in the community and then conduct 2-3 interviews with community members, either by voice, email, or video. (Remember, recording equipment is available for checkout through GSU's Digital Aquarium.) Your primary data must be available to me, although you may destroy it at the end of the semester. You will then compare your experience of literacy practices with those of your interviewees. At the end of your paper, you will offer a short argument, supported with your primary data or with a couple of secondary sources about why those (or that) literacy practices have evolved within the community.

This task may seem daunting, but there are so many ways to describe and define literacy, that we will have very little trouble coming up with a unique topic for your project.

Thursday, Feb. 9th : Rough Draft Peer Review – Bring one hard copy to class and put one in iCollege drop box before class

Final Draft Due: Sunday Feb 12 at 11:59 pm via iCollege Dropbox