

Essay 1 ~ Narrative Assignment: Storytelling and Career Literacy

English 1101

Think about your own experiences with a particular profession, leadership position, or volunteer experience. Examine yourself in terms of your experiences with learning and professional development and ask yourself what is unique or defining about you. In what disciplines, practices, and professions are you literate? What skills have you developed, or do you believe you need in the future, to be successful? What have you learned about your value from these experiences? And where will your experiences take you?

OBJECTIVE: Write a STORY that tells readers something about your experiences with your professional goals. The story should clarify the connections between your past influences, your present state, and your future goals as a person (with a focus on your career goals).

1. Before you get started, review the resources in CTC “Telling a Good Story” module to get some ideas about how you might frame your story in a way that might later be useful to you when you revise your digital biography for Essay 4. You will not use the whole essay in your digital biography, but think of things that might help a digital audience understand you and your specific experience, talents, and/or skills.
2. Select a moment in your life that impacted your desire to pursue a certain career, your choice of major, or career path (e.g. an experience at your first job, leadership positions that you held at another school or institution, living through a life-changing event like discrimination in your place of employment, volunteer experiences, leadership positions in social or religious organizations, or experiences as a social media influencer).
2. Organize your thoughts about this experience into narrative components. Pose questions to yourself that help you contextualize your experience in light of who you are today, explore the events and ramifications that occurred at the time, help explain this experience’s influences on you, and provide connections between your past and your planned future. Make sure that your story has:
 - a. Setting
 - b. Characters
 - c. Events
 - d. Compelling details
3. Identify a broad statement that sums up why you are telling your story; make a claim about your life and experience.
4. Compose a STORY/NARRATIVE that makes the point you determined for #3 by telling this story using lots of details. Readers should come to understand your growth and development in relation to your career goals as a result of your telling this story.

Requirements:

- A 2–3 page narrative that includes:
- A clear articulation or way of understanding the PURPOSE of your story
- Compelling and appropriate evidence from your past

- Specific details and effective storytelling
- A coherent organizational structure that supports your focus
- A clear connection between your identity and the claim about your life and experience.
- Proofreading and MLA formation

WHEN:

First draft due on iCollege by Wed. Jan. 27 @ 5 PM

Final draft due on iCollege by Wed. Feb. 3 @ 5 PM

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Grading Rubric

- 10 pts. Your essay is turned in on time via iCollege.
- 10 pts. Your essay is 2-3 pages in length.
- 20 Pts. A clear articulation or way of understanding the PURPOSE of your story and a clear connection between your identity and the claim about your life and experience
- 20 Pts. Compelling and appropriate evidence from your past and specific details and effective storytelling.
- 20 Pts. A coherent organizational structure that supports your focus.
- 10 Pts. You have proofread your essay and it is free of grammatical and autocorrect errors.
- 10 Pts. Your essay follows the MLA formatting guidelines for our class: 12 pt. font, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, etc.