



COLLEGE WRITING ENG 101

Main Text: *The Norton Field Guide
To Writing*

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The Norton Field Guide to Writing

Section Outline:

- *Attendance*
- *Prayer*
- *Review of Lecture: Rhetorical Situations**
- *The Importance of Style and Voice*
- *Class Introductions: Interactive Exercise*
- *On Writing a Literacy Narrative ...*



Style and Voice

How you say your message is part of what you say.

**YOUR
TONE
MATTERS!**



Style and Voice

How you say your message is part of what you say.

Style and Voice

- Diction means word choice: the words you choose when you write and speak.
- Your word choices convey information about you
- Choosing words carefully is an absolute law for writers

Style and Voice



Choose a word

*because it is the most accurate word to
express your thoughts.*

Style and Voice



- A writer's style is what sets his or her writing apart. Style is the way writing is dressed up (or down) to fit the specific context, purpose, or audience.
- Word choice, sentence fluency, and the writer's voice — all contribute to the style of a piece of writing.
- How a writer chooses words and structures sentences to achieve a certain effect is also an element of style.
- When Thomas Paine wrote "These are the times that try men's souls," he arranged his words to convey a sense of urgency and desperation. Had he written "These are bad times," it's likely he wouldn't have made such an impact!

Style and Voice

Style is usually considered to be the province of literary writers. Novelists such as Ernest Hemingway and William Faulkner and poets such as Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman are well known for their distinctive literary styles.

But journalists, scientists, historians, and mathematicians also have distinctive styles, and they need to know how to vary their styles to fit different audiences.

For example, the first-person narrative style of a popular magazine like *National Geographic* is quite different from the objective, third-person expository style of a research journal like *Scientific American*, even though both are written for informational purposes.

Style and Voice

Style is not a matter of right and wrong but of what is appropriate for a particular setting and audience. *Consider the following two passages, which were written by the same author on the same topic with the same main idea, yet have very different styles:*

“Experiments show that *Heliconius* butterflies are less likely to oviposit on host plants that possess eggs or egg-like structures. These egg mimics are an unambiguous example of a plant trait evolved in response to a host-restricted group of insect herbivores.”

“*Heliconius* butterflies lay their eggs on *Passiflora* vines. In defense the vines seem to have evolved fake eggs that make it look to the butterflies as if eggs have already been laid on them.” (Example from Myers, G. (1992). *Writing biology: Texts in the social construction of scientific knowledge*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press. p. 150.)

Style and Voice

What changed was the audience. *The first passage was written for a professional journal read by other biologists*, so the style is authoritative and impersonal, using technical terminology suited to a professional audience.

The second passage, written for a popular science magazine, uses a more dramatic style, setting up a conflict between the butterflies and the vines, and using familiar words to help readers from non-scientific backgrounds visualize the scientific concept being described. Each style is appropriate for the particular audience.

Style and Voice

Elements of style: Word Choice, Sentence Fluency and Voice

Word Choice

Good writers are concise and precise, weeding out unnecessary words and choosing the exact word to convey meaning. Precise words—active verbs, concrete nouns, specific adjectives—help the reader visualize the sentence. Good writers use adjectives sparingly and adverbs rarely, letting their nouns and verbs do the work.

Good writers also choose words that contribute to the flow of a sentence. Polysyllabic words, alliteration, and consonance can be used to create sentences that roll off the tongue. Onomatopoeia and short, staccato words can be used to break up the rhythm of a sentence.

Style and Voice

Sentence fluency: (the flow and rhythm of phrases and sentences)

- Good writers use a variety of sentences with different lengths and rhythms to achieve different effects.
- They use parallel structures within sentences and paragraphs to reflect parallel ideas, but also know how to avoid monotony by varying their sentence structures.

Style and Voice

Voice

Because voice is difficult to measure reliably, it is often left out of scoring formulas for writing tests. Yet voice is an essential element of style that reveals the writer's personality.

A writer's voice can be impersonal or chatty, authoritative or reflective, objective or passionate, serious or funny.

Style and Voice

*****Common Writing Errors: See Addl powerpoint*****

The Literacy Narrative

- A *literacy narrative* uses the elements of story (plot, character, setting, conflict) to recount a writer's personal experience with language in all its forms—reading and writing, acquiring a second language, being an insider or outsider based on literacy level, and so on.

The Literacy Narrative

- **Your narrative should focus on a single incident or event.** You might explore a positive or negative experience you've had in learning to read or write and show how that experience changed the way you thought about the value and importance of literacy.
- Or you might present a breakthrough moment in your development as a literate person and explain how that moment created a new sense of yourself as a reader, writer, or learner.

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- A literacy narrative is quite simply that: it is a story of how you became literate and how it has affected your life.
 - To create a literacy narrative, you just need to find your story and use descriptive text to bring it to life.
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- A literacy narrative is also described as a personalized story of your relationship with language.
- They often discuss memories, and they also walk through a person's discovery, trials and triumphs with reading, writing, and speaking a language.

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On Writing a Literacy Narrative:

- In your Literacy narrative, you engage in a degree of self reflection. Self-reflection is a personal experience. Therefore, the tone and voice of the writing are personal as well. Written typically from a first-person point of view, these types of essays take the reader through a journey of growth and discovery.

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Writing a Literacy Narrative:

- The structure and format follow a typical essay writing outline. Begin with a great hook and a strong introduction. Pull the reader in without giving too much away, then provide a quick overview of the reflective topic.

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Writing a Literacy Narrative:

- Next, in the body of the essay, move into the meat of the paper by describing your experiences and growth. Round out your writing with a solid conclusion that concisely restates what you learned.

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Deciding on a Topic:

- *Choose a subject you want to explore.* Write a list of things that you think about, wonder about, find puzzling or annoying.
- *Consider the Rhetorical Situation:*
 - Purpose
 - Audience
 - Stance

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Generating Ideas and Text:

- *Explore your subject in detail:*
- *Ask yourself why your subject matters. Why is it important? Intriguing? Or significant?*
- *Think about how to keep your readers with you ... sketch out a rough thesis ...*

CLASS INTRODUCTIONS

****Interactive Exercise****

The Literacy Narrative

Class Discussion:

- *How well does each author fulfill the key features of a literacy narrative?*

The Literacy Narrative

Se Habla Espanol – Tanya Barrientos

- https://joannarichmond.weebly.com/uploads/4/8/7/4/4874086/se_habla_espaol_tanya_barrientos.pdf

The Literacy Narrative

Se Habla Espanol ... Tanya Maria Barrientos

- **Key Features:**

Is it a well told story?

- **Vivid Detail:**

Can you list the vivid details?

The Literacy Narrative

- **Indication of the Narrative's Significance:**

By definition, a literacy narrative tells something the writer remembers about learning to read or write. In addition, the writer needs to make clear why the incident matters to him or her. What reasoning does Barrientos give as to why this story matters to her ?

The Literacy Narrative

Mother Tongue – Amy Tan

- <http://www.umsl.edu/~alexanderjm/Mother%20Tongue%20by%20Tan.pdf>

The Literacy Narrative

Mother Tongue ... Amy Tan

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The Literacy Narrative

- **Indication of the Narrative's Significance:**

By definition, a literacy narrative tells something the writer remembers about learning to read or write. In addition, the writer needs to make clear why the incident matters to him or her. What reasoning does Tan give as to why this story matters to her ?

The Literacy Narrative

- In developing this essay, you will need to think about yourself and write about your thoughts for others to read.
- **Write about something that you have experienced in regard to your Literacy Life; a memory that sticks with you and makes you who you are today.** It is almost like a flashback where you explore an event, thinking over what you have learned from it. The most difficult aspect may be deciding what you want to share. The essay must contain at least 500-750 words, be double-spaced, and be in 12-point Times New Roman font. MLA formatting should be followed throughout the document. You may write in first or third person. *Do not* use contractions.

The Literacy Narrative

- All essays should be developed with an introductory paragraph(s) that will start with an attention-getter and include the thesis of the essay and the direction the essay will take. The body paragraphs should develop and support the thesis. The concluding paragraph should reemphasize the thesis and the significance of the event.

The Literacy Narrative Assignment Guidelines

- Write about something that you have experienced in regard to your Literacy Life; a memory that sticks with you and makes you who you are today. It is almost like a flashback where you explore an event, thinking over what you have learned from it. The most difficult aspect may be deciding what you want to share. The essay must contain at least 500-750 words, be double-spaced, and be in 12-point Times New Roman font. MLA formatting should be followed throughout the document.

The Literacy Narrative Assignment Guidelines

- You may write in first or third person. Do not use contractions. Your narrative should focus on a single incident or event. You might explore a positive or negative experience you've had in learning to read, write or communicate and show how that experience changed the way you thought about the value and importance of literacy. Or you might present a breakthrough moment in your development as a literate person and explain how that moment created a new sense of yourself as a reader, writer, or learner.

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Key Features of a Literacy Narrative

- Hook: Begin with a hook to draw the reader in. This could be your first experience with books or how reading and writing define you.
- Focus: Rounding out your first paragraph, you'll want to give a short thesis that tells the reader the whole point of your story.

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Key Features of a Literacy Narrative

- **Meaning:** Throughout the remainder of your narrative, you'll use stories and vivid descriptions to explore the meaning of this journey to you. You might discuss how your poetry has grown or your love of reading has turned into writing.
- **Challenges:** Explore the challenges that you've faced in your journey and how you've overcome them, along with how your ideas and thoughts have transformed.

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IN CLASS

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- Conclusion: