

This is a pre-print version of Bourelle et al's webtext, "Reflections in Online Writing Instruction: Pathways to Professional Development," published in *Kairos: A Journal of Rhetoric, Technology, and Pedagogy*, 20(1), available at <http://kairos.technorhetoric.net/20.1/praxis/bourelle-et-al>

Digital Literacy Narrative

Topic. Literacy Narratives are stories about reading and composing in any form or context. They often include poignant memories that involve a personal experience with literacy. Digital literacy narratives can sometimes be categorized as narratives that focus on how the writer came to understand the importance of technology in his/her life or teaching pedagogy. More often, they are simply narratives that use a medium beyond the print-based essay to tell the story. For this assignment, you will combine both aspects of the genre, writing a piece based on your own technological literacy, choosing a medium you feel best conveys the message you want to share with your audience.

Specifics. This assignment requires you to do four things:

1. Develop an understanding of literacy.
2. Compose a story that forwards that same understanding of literacy.
3. Create a multimodal piece, much like we're asking of our students.
4. Explain, in a reflection, how your digital composition forwards your understanding of literacy and why you chose your specific medium. For instance, you might choose to keep it professional for a job-market audience, or you might tell the story for fellow colleagues or peers, encouraging them to expand their ideas of digital literacy in the classroom, etc..

Requirements. Use your best judgment for the length of the multimodal piece. As you'll read later in the semester, research suggests that cognitive overload begins after three minutes; therefore, I would aim for no longer than 5 minutes maximum. If you choose to do a blog, the typical teaching philosophy (as asked for by most universities) is around a page in length (600 words). Regardless, you would still need to use more than one mode to communicate your message, no matter what medium you choose.

The reflection should be typed and no longer than one to two paragraphs in length, discussing your audience and the rationale for your choice in medium.

Helpful Hints. I would recommend writing something first before starting your multimodal piece. I recommend this because you will later write a teaching philosophy where you can expand on your digital literacy narrative, interweaving theory you've learned in this class.

Rubric

Qualities	Highly Effective	Satisfactory	Needs Further Attention
Addresses Intended Audience	The writer clearly understands the needs of the intended audience and has adapted the writing to that audience.	The writer seems to understand the needs of the intended audience but hasn't fully adapted the writing to meet those needs.	The writer does not demonstrate an understanding of the needs of the intended audience.
Clear Sense of Purpose	The writer's purpose is clear throughout the entire project.	The writer's purpose is clear throughout most of the project.	The writer needs to clarify the purpose of the project.
Narrative has an arc and/or writer relays the importance of digital literacy within his/her life	The writer has critically examined substantial information and has used the most relevant information.	The writer has critically examined some information and has used relevant information.	The writer has critically examined some information and has used fairly relevant information.
Understanding of digital literacy	The writer has clearly demonstrated an understanding of digital literacy.	Definition of digital literacy is somewhat clear but could be expanded.	The writer has attempted to define digital literacy but could do much more to make the definition clear.
Conventions	The writer has attended to all the necessary conventions of writing	The writer has attended to most of the necessary conventions of writing.	The writer needs to attend to more of the necessary conventions of writing.
Organization and use of graphics/multimodal component	The writer has used graphics well, as they enhance the piece.	The writer has used graphics well, although they may not enhance the piece; organization flows but could be better.	The writer has used graphics, but they don't, enhance the piece; organization needs work.
Reflection	Writer has written a reflection and accounted for his/her choices	Writer has attempted to write a reflection but needs to do more to account for his/her choice in medium.	Writer has made little to no attempt to reflect.