

“Share” and “reflect” are the two key phrases here. So, you should be sharing a story and thinking about what it means in relation to your life now.

### Composition I, Assignment 2: Literacy Narrative (Example 1)

This project asks you to share one major event in your development of literacy, or the ability to understand and communicate, in a detailed and engaging way, so that you can start to reflect on the importance of that event to your current abilities. By doing so, we will be learning more about genre and practicing different modes of composition, two of our course goals.

Referencing course goals.

#### Requirements:

A literacy narrative asks you to write a story of how you learned to read or write in some way.

- You will isolate a key moment in your development and write a literacy narrative that relates your story in a compelling manner.

- **Length:** 4-5 double-spaced pages (1,200 to 1,500 words).

See OWL MLA page for more information here:  
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

- **Format:** Follow MLA style. No cover page.

- **Submission:** Turn in via email by **noon on Friday, 9/19**. Email a .doc format (MS Word 2007) attachment to me as well, using a unique subject line something like “Purdue 106 Literacy Narrative” and the file name “lastname-106-litnarr.doc.”

Basic guidelines for the assignment.

- **Grading:** 0–100 points on an A-F scale, considering the guidelines below

Obviously, this prompt is not very detailed—the first sentence contains the main task of the essay, and then the next several sentences give a little more detail to the assignment. There are a number of questions you might ask in the margins.

## English 101: Argument Essay Sequence (Example 2)

Relates the assignment back to the context of the class.

By this point in the semester, we have talked *a lot* about rhetoric, discourse and society, and you all have completed assignments that have allowed you to analyze rhetorical concepts in your own life and in an outside text. Now, it's time to take your newfound knowledge of rhetoric and use it to try and better our society.

There are three different genres noted here, an annotated bibliography, a research paper, and a petition.

**Task:** You will determine an issue of interest and spend several weeks researching that topic in-depth to create an annotated bibliography of at least 6 sources.

This research will allow you to have a stance on the topic and an extensive understanding of the issue at hand; so you will next craft a 1-2 page petition calling for a resolution to your topic. This public supports the reasoning presented in your petition.

This portion is providing some potential topics, or at least some guidelines in picking a topic.

**Process:** You need to pick a current issue that appeals to you on the local and personal level—say you think that the university needs to offer more choices for vegetarians in the dining halls, or your hometown is getting a Wal-mart and you believe that the store will destroy all of the independent businesses that have been there for years. Or maybe it's something a bit more complicated where you aren't sure how you feel—and that's okay, because your research will allow you to find a stance on the issue.

So, there are multiple parts to this assignment

There are three major parts to this assignment: 1) the annotated bibliography, 2) a research paper that backs up your petition, and 3) a petition drafted in order to convince your chosen audience that your issue requires immediate attention.

Important criteria to remember for getting your sources together.

- 1) The annotated bibliography must contain at least 6 sources with correct MLA citation and an approximately 250-word annotation for each source that identifies the source as credible, summarizes the source, and explains why this source is helpful for your research. **NOT ALL OF YOUR SOURCES CAN BE FROM PUBLICLY ACCESSED WEBSITES.** We will talk about different research opportunities and resources in class.

Length guidelines are nestled within this information, so you have to be looking carefully for them.

- 2) You will then take your research and draft a 4-6 page research paper that details all of the important aspects of your topic, including history, impact, current situation, who's involved, etc.
- 3) The petition must present your argument in a clear manner to your intended audience, and must use sound reasoning in

approximately 250-500 words (1-2 pages). We will look at some examples in class and talk about the genre of the petition.

Here are some questions to get you started once you have completed your research and are in the process of drafting the petition:

These questions are meant for you to understand more clearly the petition assignment.

- Who is the audience of your petition and why? What is this person/group's ethos and what about it influenced your voice?
- What is your main argument and why is it important?
- What kinds of appeals will you use in your argument and how do they work?
- What are the supporting points of your argument and what particular parts of your research back up the argument? What can you reference in the petition and then further explain in the paper?
- Have you addressed counter-claims and the opposing arguments?

We will have a peer revision day—after all, this class is all about composition, and revision is a vital part of writing. You must be present on this day, and you must turn in a draft to get appropriate credit on the final.

It is always good to look at the due dates for long projects like this because assignments can sneak up on you.

**Due Dates:**

- Informal Proposal: Thursday, October 4 in conference with me
- Annotated Bibliography: Tuesday, October 16 by class time
- Drafts (Petition and Research Paper) for Peer Review: Tuesday, October 23 by class time
- Final Product (Petition and Research Paper): Tuesday, October 30 by 11.59 P.M.

**Point Values:**

Rough Draft(s)—20 points  
Annotated Bibliography—30 points  
Petition—60 points  
Research Paper—80 points  
Writer's Letter—10 points

Total—200 points

So, this prompt contains the rubric or the criteria by which the final project will be

**Successful projects will accomplish the following:**

- Craft an annotated bibliography that contains a variety of sources and shows good analysis and summary skills

There are many action verbs or tasks in here, so keep these in mind, but try not to get distracted by these.



- Produce a petition which skillfully uses rhetorical concepts discussed in class in your own, original attempts at persuasion
- Places your own argument in a place of societal and cultural relevance
- Points out why the current (or impending) situation is negative and requires a remedy
- Introduces a feasible alternative to the current situation that is backed up by solid research
- Provides a solid background with good, credible sources in the research paper
- Uses sources by correctly paraphrasing, summarizing and directly quoting in APA style
- Considers the other side of the issue and refutes those points
- Shows time and effort by being written with minimal errors in grammar, spelling, and mechanics

Check out the OWL APA Resource here: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>



This assignment is much lengthier than the first one, and contains many more parts. This can make it seem overwhelming, so the best way to approach reading a prompt this long is to break it down into manageable parts—perhaps by going through the bolded headings.

## Writing About Literature: Textual Analysis of Chosen Artifact Essay (Example 3)

### Finding Objects to Analyze

For our first essay, we will be critically analyzing persuasive texts (or textual objects). These texts may include poetry, advertisements, or a physical object. The analysis may focus completely on one text or it may compare two similar texts. In choosing objects to analyze, think about:

These are guidelines for selecting a topic. While it does not state specific topics, this prompt gives steps for picking a topic.



- how much content your text has (you will need to get several pages of analysis out of it)
- how it relates to other, similar texts
- what makes this text particularly interesting or worthwhile as an object of study

This is a moment that describes the process of planning your essay.



You will need to initially find three separate texts as possible objects of study, and we will narrow it down from there.

Clear statement of task, and further information about the genre of essay you are being asked to write.



### Close Reading

Close reading involves analyzing a particular text or object based solely on its own attributes (not through outside research or summary). Close reading asks the writer to engage with specific ideas that their text highlights, examine detail, comment on that detail, and provide a holistic analysis of the examined text. This analysis should make an argument about what the text is doing and how it is achieving this. Some useful questions to start with:

Again, these are questions that are meant to help you begin writing, but these could be more helpful for content in your essay.



- What is the author telling me here?
- Are there any hard or important words?
- What does the author want me to understand?
- How does the author play with language to add to meaning?

Once you have answers to these questions you will need to support your reading with detail from the text. Essays that do not provide sufficient detail or engage primarily in summary will not achieve high grades.

### Guidelines

Length: 750-1000 words (roughly three to four pages)

Requirements:

- Strong thesis statement that makes a clear argument
- Analysis that provides explicit detail to support its claims
- Clear, grammatically correct prose that maintains an academic tone

## Due Dates

- Rough Draft: September 12th
- Final Draft: September 26th

Possible places to start or texts to look at. Again, these are suggestions meant to guide you.



## Possible Poems

Having a Coke With You - Frank O'Hara  
Phenomenal Woman - Maya Angelou  
One Art - Elizabeth Bishop  
If You Forget Me - Pablo Neruda  
Let America Be America Again - Langston Hughes  
Sonnet 29 – Shakespeare

## Possible Ad Sources

Ads of the World  
Ad\*Access  
Creative Advertisements  
Social Advertisements

This assignment is not as long as the second example but contains more information than the first example. It is also structured very differently from the other two, containing an entire section about the main task of the essay. This provides a clear idea of what is being asked of the student.