

Prof. SB  
English 1010  
Fall 2022

### Personal Narrative Assignment Prompt

In class, we will be reading and discussing a variety of personal narratives that engage the relationship between their writers' *identities* and *literacies* (these may be the languages they speak, the cultures they inhabit, the ways they inhabit spaces and geographies, etc.). During this unit, you will also be writing a personal narrative that addresses one way your *identity* intersects with your *literacies*.

As you brainstorm what to write about, you may think about the following questions:

- How do you speak? How do you write? Do you speak and write differently in different places/with different people/in different situations? When do you feel most like yourself as a writer and communicator?
- How have you been made to feel about your identity and the ways that you communicate that identity? You may communicate your identity by how you speak, but also by how you dress, how you move through space, etc. Does a specific anecdote or experience stand out to you?

#### Genre:

Because this is a narrative, you should be telling a story to your readers, who are your classmates, your instructor, and potentially the broader Brooklyn College community. (There may be opportunities to publish these narratives!) Even though it's a story, that doesn't mean that it needs to start with a traditional beginning, middle, and end. You might consider modeling your personal narrative on the structure and style of one of our readings (by Lamott, Anzaldúa, Tan, Marshall, and Cadogan). Consider what voice you want to write in: this is personal writing, so it does not need to be in Standard Academic English. That means you can write in a voice and dialect that sounds like you (or voices and dialects, plural!). What do you want your readers to learn about you and about the world from this narrative?

#### Requirements:

Your personal narrative should be 750-1000 words, double-spaced, in 12-point font, and with 1-inch margins (MLA Style). In class we will brainstorm and develop categories for a grading rubric together.

You will write and submit a cover memo with each draft of the personal narrative.

#### Deadlines:

**Thurs. 9/15:** Bring TWO copies (printed out!) to class of your first draft (minimum 600 words)

On the first page, write a cover memo to your peer reviewers that answers the following questions:

- 1) What stage of the writing process are you at? How did it feel to write this draft?
- 2) What do you think are the strengths of the draft so far?

- 3) What do you feel are the weaknesses at this point?
- 4) Is there anything that you want your peer reviewers to focus on as they read and give you feedback? Do you have any questions that you want them to answer?

**Fri. 9/23 by 8 p.m.:** Upload REVISED draft to Blackboard (minimum 750 words)

On the first page, write a cover memo to me that answers the following questions:

- 1) What was the writing process like? How did it feel to write and revise this?
- 2) What feedback did you receive from your peer reviewers? What specific revisions did you make?
- 3) What do you feel are the strengths of your narrative? What do you feel are the weaknesses?
- 4) Do you want me to give you feedback on your grammar? [My default is that I won't unless you ask me to]
- 5) Do you have any questions that you want me to answer in my feedback or elements of the narrative that you want me to focus my comments on?

Later in the semester, you may choose to revise again and include a third draft in your portfolio.