Assignment One: Personal (Literacy!) Narrative

Part One: Choose one of the following prompts, and write a paper (approximately 3 pages in length) about it:

- Your development as a reader and writer
- A significant experience in your education to date
- A time when your understanding of the world expanded

Many of the texts that we have read so far this semester can serve as models and inspiration: Frederick Douglas’s “Learning to Read and Write,” Sherman Alexie’s “Superman and Me,” El-Ghobashy’s “Quandaries of Representation”

Keep in mind that you should focus on a particular experience, event, or “indelible moment” rather than trying to tell your life story in three pages. Consider, too, our discussions of what makes a good narrative (conflict, overcoming resistance, encountering a mentor, crossing a threshold, facing the unknown, navigating obstacles, resurrection & return). At some point in your essay, include some form of quotation or dialogue, i.e. let someone actually say something. This will help you to enter into a particular moment/scene, rather than just writing about it.

Your essay should be correctly formatted: double-spaced, indented paragraphs, page numbers, and an original title.

Part Two: On a separate sheet of paper, answer the following questions (1-2 sentences each)

1. What personal experience is central to your essay?
2. What larger theme, or experience, understanding, or lesson does your personal experience relate to?

Nuts & Bolts

Paper length: approximately 3 pages, types, double-spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margins

Draft One Due In-Class: Monday, February 11, 2019 (must attend class for credit)

Draft Two Due In-Class: Wednesday, February 13, 2019
Personal Narrative Grading Rubric

Essay Writer:

Draft One and Peer Workshop (February 11, 2019) 20%
Essay follows one of the prompts 20%
Essay is centered on a personal experience, event, or moment 20%
Essay connects to a universal story or theme 20%
Organizational Flow 10%
Narrative Voice 5%
Personal Experience & Universal Theme on separate sheet of paper 5%
Total 100%

Reminder: Essays turned in late will receive a 20-point penalty