**Project One: Literacy Narrative**

*Due: September 26, 2013 in class*

**Assignment:**

Our first project focuses on memory work by asking the question “What does literacy mean to *you*?” Each of us has a lifelong journey with reading and writing and the aim of the literacy narrative is to map that journey thus far. Writing your narrative, reflect critically on specific moments (good or bad) that shaped you into the reader and writer you are today. Likewise, think about what your goals pertaining to literacy may be as you enter into college—what does the future hold for you, given your path so far?

**Questions to Ask Yourself:**

* When you read the word ‘literacy,’ what comes to mind? Is literacy about books, or are there different kinds of literacy? (Think about computer literacy, for example.)
* What were a few important places, people, or moments in your literacy development?
* What sorts of books did your family keep in your home when you were a child?
* Identify a-ha! moments when something about writing or reading clicked for you.
* Do you like to read? To write? Do they come easily to you? What habits do you have when it comes to reading and/or writing?

**Related Readings:**

All readings, unless otherwise specified, can be found online at our class Google Docs folder: http://goo.gl/LHeTwt

* Malcolm X, “Learning to Read”
* Elizabeth Bishop, “The U.S.A. School of Writing” (handout)
* Digital Archive of Literacy Narratives (daln.osu.edu)

**Invention Portfolio:**

Your Invention Portfolio is a collection of the small pieces of writing you do in class or as homework. The IP, therefore, is a way of looking at your progress throughout the project period. For Project One, you should include the following pieces:

1. First day fast write
2. Literacy influences piece
3. Malcolm X quick write
4. Project One rough draft
5. Bishop quick write
6. Peer review draft
7. Project cover letter

**General Essay Guidelines:**

* At LEAST four (4) pages long, double-spaced
* Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt.
* Last name and page number in upper right corner of page for all drafts
* Refer to example of MLA-style paper in *Everyday Writer*, pp. 502-11 for more formatting details.

**Grading:**

Most broadly, the project will be graded as follows:

Project essay: 70 pts.

Invention portfolio: 20 pts.

Participation: 10 pts.

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**Total:** 100 pts.

All assignments included in the Invention Portfolio will be graded on a check/check plus/check minus scale.

The essay will be graded on a sliding scale on the following standards, resulting in a traditional letter grade:

* **Direction:** Does the work respond appropriately to the assignment? Does the narrative define what literacy means to its author?
* **Specificity:** are there anecdotes or specific examples effectively used to illustrate larger statements about literacy?
* **Development:** does the narrative feel finished? Does it end well?
* **Coherence:** Is the narrative well-organized? Does the flow of the narrative feel natural? Are the examples used relevant to the task at hand?
* **Care:** Is the narrative free of grammar, spelling and syntax errors? Are there no repeated phrases or unfinished sentences?