

ENG 1113: Unit 2 Essay

The Importance of Literacy

DUE:

25 March 2010, at the beginning of class

READINGS

- Malcolm X. "Coming to an Awareness of Language"
- Helen Keller. "The Day Language Came Into My Life"
- Frederick Douglas. "Learning to Read and Write"
- Gloria Naylor. "The Meaning of a Word"
- Mary Crow Dog and Richard Erdoes. "Civilize Them with a Stick"
- Jonathon Kozol. "The Human Cost of an Illiterate Society."

In addition, you will:

- Use proper tone and voice for a formal essay.
- Use formal language.
- Use strong verbs and specific words to convey your meaning.
- Employ correct punctuation and grammar.
- Follow page format guidelines as described in your syllabus.
- You may assume that your **audience** for this assignment consists of **intelligent, college-level readers**.
- Turn in a typed draft at least 2.5 pages in length (@700 words)

ADDITIONAL

You may make an appointment with me (or email me) at any phase of your assignment to discuss any ideas or problems you may be having. I am more than willing to look at drafts at any stage of development. Please consult the information in your syllabus about scheduling appointments in order to do so. You may also schedule an appointment in SSC's Student Success Center with a writing tutor to gain valuable feedback on your draft.

**THIS ASSIGNMENT IS WORTH
100 POINTS**

GUIDELINES

Your essay must define literacy and then persuade your reader of the importance of literacy by explaining how it transformed the lives of three authors for this unit. You must also use and document by MLA examples (by quoting or summarizing) from three readings to support your position. Try to find a unique way of approaching this. There are a handful of obvious, pat answers that would result in a passing essay. However, if you want a better chance at an A or B grade, you must find something new to say or place the topic within a different context than we expect.

Following a strict, academic format, your essay outline may look like this:

- Introduction: Open with an attention getter, define literacy, provide context for this discussion (why is it important?), and state thesis.
- Body Paragraph 1: Present first supporting evidence and follow it with specific details to illustrate your point
- Body Paragraph 2: Present second supporting evidence, etc.
- Body Paragraph 3: Present third supporting evidence, etc.
- Conclusion: Restatement of thesis, provide big picture comments – why this is an important revelation, how can the reader benefit, etc.

Your discussion must incorporate your own ideas and opinions regarding this subject, but may also make use of ideas presented in assigned readings and class discussion. Ideas taken from the readings must be incorporated according to the rules of M.L.A., which your *QA Compact* clearly addresses.

Works Cited

LastName, FirstName. "Title of Essay." *Title of Anthology*. Ed. FirstName LastName. Edition #. City: Publisher, Year. Page – Page. Print.

Parenthetical notation: Signal into the quote, often by stating the author's name: According to XY, "quote" (page#). Or AuthorName writes that "quote" (page#). The parentheses at the end that lists the page number is the signal out.