

ENG 1113: Literacy Essay

In your group, collaborate to find at least two ways that literacy transformed the lives of each author listed below. Consider not only positive effects but also negative ones as well. At the end, list any specific types of literacy you see in each essay, and then create a works cited entry for each author. The four most common types of literacy, as defined by Knoblauch, are:

- Functional: “pragmatic emphasis on readying people for the necessities of daily life--writing checks, reading sets of instructions--as well as for the professional tasks of a complex technological society” (76)
- Cultural: “includes an awareness of cultural heritage, a capacity for higher-order thinking, even some aesthetic discernment... Language is no mere tool in this view but is, rather, a repository of cultural values and to that extent a source of social cohesion” (77).
- Personal Growth: “language expresses the power of the individual imagination, so that nurturing a person’s reading and writing abilities enables the development of that power, thereby promoting the progress of society through the progress of the individual learner” (78).
- Critical: “identify reading and writing abilities with a critical consciousness of the social conditions in which people find themselves, recognizing the extent to which language practices objectify and rationalize these conditions and the extent to which people with authority to name the world dominate others whose voices they have been able to suppress” (79).

HELEN KELLER

- 1.
- 2.

MALCOLM X

- 1.
- 2.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

- 1.
- 2.

GLORIA NAYLOR

1.

2.

MARY CROW DOG

1.

2.

JONATHAN KOZOL

1.

2.

Works Cited

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Kozol, Jonathan.

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X, Malcolm.