**Language & Literacy Narrative Brainstorms Worksheet**

Your name:

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Instructions: Please respond to the questions that follow with as much detail and description that you can. The more you put into reflecting now on the complexities of your language and literacy development, the better off you’ll be in completing our major assignment for our first phase of this course. Take as much space as you need.

When it comes to your experiences with language (speaking and listening) and literacy (reading and writing), what specific moments in your life can you recall that are particularly vivid or that emerge as being significant to you? Yes, it could be an example from your earliest memories of *learning* to speak, read, and write (in school or elsewhere), but it doesn’t have to be. It could be a memorable encounter—a moment of tension, confusion, or triumph. It could be about experiences developing additional dialects/languages and advanced literacies (i.e., learning to speak/write in different peer groups, at school, at work, with family, online, in different locations across the nation or world, etc. Please select 3 moments to describe. Then, explain why each is interesting or significant.

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| 1.  One of my few memorable experiences with language was during a debate conference, my last Model UN related international conferences, the moment can be considered an “I got you moment.” Basically, I was in the DISEC committee, within the event called GCMUN, working on the controversial topic of warring weapons and their limitations and production. The goal of the conference was to deal with complications, created by chair members, in order to find a solution to these lethal weapons. My moment of this conference was when it came to noticing contradictions within the statements given by other delegates who communed during this event. If I hadn’t, I wouldn’t have been able to call out certain topics that’d push their limits. In result, the delegates who made contradicting statements had to amend into a resolution that was created by the group of delegates I’ve worked with. It was memorable because each time I spoke felt like a speech which I loved about model UN. The club raised my confidence and I’m able to freely speak in an open setting. |
| 2.  Standing up for myself was another memorable experience when it came to dealing with language. I am a first-generation immigrant. I came to this country when I was three. So, the language barrier had a major effect on me. My parents at a young age would make me and my siblings take English speaking classes before even entering school. For us, to feel naturally accustomed to the new language called English instead of speaking Bangla outside of our small apartment in Brooklyn. So this event is in second grade, I was a transfer student into a new school since my family would move pretty often. Back to the main story, going into this new school came with a new surrounding so it took time to readjust. However, with this adjustment came with my parents telling the school I can’t speak English in a fluent manner, but I honestly understood what everyone said. So going into my class I was plopped down next to a person who spoke both Bengali and English. And this person at the time was seven and they’d tell speak to me in Bangla and off topic in perfect English called me something else. And I told them straight up that I heard them and that its okay but don’t think of me anything different just because their way of speaking English was much better than mine. |
| 3.  As a kid growing up, learning English in school came with years of ESL (English as a second language learner.) These classes had majorly affected me and my learning. It opened so many opportunities that I wouldn’t have had if I didn’t have these classes. Such as reading, writing, speaking, and listening. |

What specific materials or artifacts (i.e., objects, writing, learning materials, pictures, video recordings, etc.) from your past can you locate/recall and that in some way represent a meaningful moment in your reading/writing development? This can be something like a journal or book, but also anything at all (e.g., a toy, piece of furniture, cereal box, art supplies, etc.) What memories and feelings can you extract from these examples you’ve gathered/recalled? Explain.

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| The best delegate award from GCMUN is an artifact that will forever live with me because it shows my improvement as a person who went from knowing simple words and now, I’m all grown speaking and writing complex sentences. |

For better or worse, who and what impacted how, when, and why you developed your languages and literacies? Who in your family, at school, among your peer group, or in your community played a part? How did your particular situation or experience shape your literacy? That is, what sorts of issues, experiences, organizations, or life circumstances played a part? What kinds of languages and literacies did you gain from those people and your particular situation? How? Why? Explain.

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| My parents and my older sister helped shape and hone my language and literacy skills. Without them, I wouldn’t know who else would’ve taken the initiation of teaching me how to speak English fluently. |

In what ways do you see your language, reading, and writing capabilities as having social consequences or impacting your life circumstances—that is, what advantages did/do you have and what disadvantages did/do you face as a result of your language and literacy learning?

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| When it came to learning a new language at a young age its hard cause I grew up with a accent and I’d get bullied for it but honestly it didn’t impact me as much. |

How might your experience with language and literacy connect to larger social realities (e.g., of your life, family, generation, gender, race, culture, nation, geographic location, historical moment, etc.)?

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| My Experience with language took me to great heights one of which is college. I believe that I can go even further by expanding my knowledge all over the things that I can do. For instance writing papers on controversial topics and prepping for debate was one of the cores that prepared me for any sort of success cause now I’m able to stand my ground. |