

Yasainey Njie  
English 110 B  
Dr Clenace  
12/14/2025

### Literacy Journey

Through being in this class, I have learned much more about writing than I did before. In high school, we were taught that there is always a structure to writing: intro, body paragraphs, and a conclusion, and this is how it's going to be for the rest of our lives. Then, coming into this class, I was challenged to move away from this idea and that writing is flexible, and what's important is how to communicate your ideas. Through focusing on language and literacy, I was able to learn so much about the impact of language on others, and this shaped my understanding of literacy as a whole.

Some meaningful insight I have learned through writing my [synthesis essay](#) is that many ideas explored regarding dialects and the way people speak are something that many go through, no matter who they are. To further explain, after viewing some of the visual elements my classmates implemented into their writing about famous actors who are constantly made fun of, or even in film, how prejudice has become so normal that many don't even see how wrong it is, and just laugh it off, is something that has to be reevaluated. With my peers bringing prejudice in films into light, I felt inspired to do the same politically in my essay. A concept that has impacted my writing and learning is synthesis. Through writing this, I was told to synthesize, and to synthesize isn't just to make an argument and provide evidence and connect it back to the claim. It means to connect your evidence together smoothly so that it supports a claim. I constantly read over the course assignment prompt, trying to grasp this idea.

## 2. Integrate (and Synthesize Varying Perspectives from) Sources

- **Introduce** each source in your paper by providing a brief (1-3 sentence) summary of the rhetorical situation (the audience, genre, publication, purpose) and the overall argument.
- **Paraphrase** and **quote** key ideas/passages from sources to show specific perspectives.
- **Synthesize** the specific perspectives across texts, explicitly naming whether they support, extend, complicate, and/or challenge one another.

## 3. Emphasize Your Voice & Stance

Crafting your voice and stance is hard and requires risk-taking. Decide your tone and style. Draw on your different languages, literacies, and ways of being as you see fit. Determine and make clear your stance (whether you lean to one side, see both sides, or are undecided). Make claims that are relevant, specific, qualified, and complicated

## 4. Guide Your Audience Using “Signposts”

Provide “signposts” throughout your essay, aka topic sentences, transitions, and other “guiding” language aimed at helping your reader follow along and make sense of what connections exist between sources, ideas, examples, you, and your claims.

I won't lie and say that I didn't find this concept confusing and didn't know how to synthesize smoothly or in a way that would make sense. I was even confused about how to even go about writing this essay, but with some thought, I learned that I needed to build off each piece of evidence and connect them back to each other. I feel I did the best of my ability in this essay and was able to communicate my message in a way that smoothly blends in my evidence.

Something meaningful I learned through writing my [LLN essay](#) is that struggles and the impact of one's literacy come in so many different shapes and forms. To further elaborate, sitting through peer reviews and presentations made me realize that everyone's literacy journey is different. Not everyone had struggled to speak English because of immigrant parents or family. Some people who already speak English struggle to write, speak, and express themselves. Others struggle to speak their own home language because English was the priority, and that was interesting to hear because it has opened my mind up to be more understanding of others.

Experiences.

The main concept that has impacted my learning and writing is the audience, because the audience has a large impact on the way the narrative plays out. While reading the stories from these different well-known authors, I realized that they are all trying to spread a message, and this message aligns with a certain audience. Not everyone who reads a story would relate to or capture a message that the author is trying to share because they aren't the specific audience that the author intended to read and understand their story. While writing my narrative, and after going to the writing center, I was asked what the overall message I am trying to communicate. And I had to think about, other than people who stutter, who do I want to understand and hear my message, so I had to think back to my intended audience, and that played a huge factor towards the end of my narrative. I was able to share a message towards the end of my narrative that was tailored to my audience.

Looking back, stuttering is a very common thing that so many people go through, and instead of beating themselves up about it and being embarrassed to speak, they should normalize it and accept it for what it is. Receiving support from teachers is possible, people should never feel ashamed to talk to someone about it. Teachers are there to help students become the best version of themselves through their literacy journey. Overcoming stuttering is possible, it isn't a disease, so even if it seems impossible, we can still express ourselves with a stutter.

A skill I have learned would be drafting. I would say that this isn't something I have done throughout high school because it was never expected of us. However, in the past, I have experienced being peer reviewed, which I say is a form of improving my writing. Through

drafting, I was able to be given a basis of how my essay will look and further improved based on my thoughts/ideas. One thing I was always told to work on by my professor and through peer reviews was to fix my grammar and to make my writing more concise.

## Feedback for Submission - Language & Literacy Narrative Revised Draft for Instructor's Feedback

### Submission Feedback

#### Overall Feedback

Thank you for sharing this emotional journey. I enjoyed reading your essay.

Please be mindful of punctuation errors, and extra spaces between words. Also, "till" should be "until".

Thanks

Score

● Completed

That is something I feel I have learned to work on, and even though I still struggle with it, I have learned to be more aware of it while writing. An example would be using the word “Till” instead of “until.” An example of this would be a sentence from my [LLN](#) where I had stated, “Till later on that day, things would only get worse. I had come home from school, changed, and was looking forward to the leftover Chipotle I saved from the day before. Just thinking about it made me excited.” This sentence had so many errors, and through drafting, I was able to correct errors like these all throughout my essay.

Lastly, a skill I have developed is locating sources online. At first, I thought this would be simple, but this became so difficult for me to do. I would spend hours finding the right source that specifically communicated my argument, and yet I was unable to find the right source. One source seemed promising, but as I read more into it, it talked about something completely different. I started to become frustrated at the fact that this was harder than it seemed, until the class went to the library to discuss how to do research. I was still a bit confused, but as time went

by, I started to get the hang of it, and research became a little easier. I was able to find and cite so many sources that helped back up my claim

#### Work cited

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I would say it is still something I struggle with, but as I continue to do more research in the future, I will use the tips I have learned from the library to better back up my claim.

