

Appendix 1: Project Description/Handout

The HUMN Project is a class initiative that aims to feature individual literacy narratives collected on the University of Minnesota campus. It is a cultural project that highlights individual literacy histories, practices, and stories. The outcome of this project is a digital collection of multimodal literacy narratives (text, image, video, audio) that provides a historical record of literacy practices and cultural values of the individuals interviewed.

What is a Literacy Narrative?

The following is an excerpt taken from the OSU Digital Archive of Literacy Narratives (DALN), which explains what a literacy narrative encompasses:

A literacy narrative is simply a collection of items that describe how you learned to read, write, and compose. This collection might include a story about learning to read cereal boxes and a story about learning to write plays. Some people will want to record their memories about the bedtime stories their parents read to them, the comics they looked at in the newspaper, or their first library card. Others will want to tell a story about writing a memorable letter, learning how to write on a computer or taking a photograph; reading the Bible, publishing a 'zine', or sending an e-mail message.

Your Role as Producers of The HUMN Project

As students of WRIT 1301 University Writing, Sec. 055, you have the privilege to be the producers of this project. You are given the opportunity to design the interview process, narrative production, and publication of collected data to a web portal. Through this project, you will learn to:

- see with a lens through which you may examine your literacy practice as critical acts of inquiry,
- study the cultural influences that shape individuals' identities as learners,
- examine the literate lives of those who are not students, and
- develop a sense of narrative agency by producing multimodal literacy narratives

Assuming the role of critical agents who amplify the voices in our campus community, you will develop an awareness of your own writing and how writing can be used to communicate power and change in our society.

How the Project Unfolds

Phase 1: Plan and Practice

We will first review some examples on DALN to identify features of a literacy narrative and produce our personal narrative as the initial process in this project. We will couple this exercise with readings on personal knowledge, power, and identity formation in political contexts. Then, we will collectively generate interview questions, learning questions, interview "best practices," and conduct a mock interview in class as practice.

Phase 2: Produce

There will be two actual rounds of interviewing in this project. You will be paired up with another classmate to conduct these interviews on campus following the reflections and

discussions from our mock interviews. Between Round One and Round Two of campus interviews, we will check in regularly to identify challenges and breakthroughs experienced by everyone in the class. We will continue to read articles on representation, agency, and multimodal composing.

Phase 3: Publish

After collecting, rendering, and uploading all interview data onto Google Sites, our hosting server for The HUMN Project, we will review, edit, and soft-launch the digital collection in class at the end of the semester. We will write a collect document to recommend directions for future studies or projects.

Evaluation

Your final iteration of The HUMN Project should result in a meaningful communication that motivates a relevant audience to take actions on the issues you have explored in this project. You will receive a group score on how effectively you and your class have communicated about these issues through the digital collection (i.e. quality of written and visual works, rhetorical strategies employed, overall persuasive value). You will also receive an individual score on based on your engagement with the project. This individual score will be a summation of your peers' evaluation of your involvement in the working groups and my own evaluation.