**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. When I finished reading an entire book for the first time that I was actually invested and very interested in it really meant a lot me because I was never really the type to finish books I read but this specific one actually got me invested and it was one of the few books that I would actually pick up and start reading as a normal hobby. |
| 2. When people were able to understand my English and when I was able to form full sentences without struggling to make the words it was a huge feeling of accomplishment for me because for a while I would struggle with my speech and with the way I pronunciated words due to my thick Spanish accent. So when I was able to speak with having to be asked to repeat myself it was a huge sense of pride. |
| 3. The first time I ever got to do a public presentation to everyone in English really felt like a large accomplishment to be able to do it and beat my fear of speaking in front of large crowds. Ever since that day, I was able to have very high confidence whenever I am about to speak in front of a lot of people. |

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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| I have a necklace of the face of christ which was given to me when I was born and to this day I still have it. It is very important to me because it greatly reminds me of my childhood and is always reminds me that the necklace was given to me by someone who really cares about me and loves me very much which are in fact my parents. |

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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| Moving in to the country had a major impact on me for the better and for the worse at the same time because while I started to develop a new language and all the skills that come with speaking, writing, and reading, a new language, it also took a turn for the worse in the way that I was rushed and fell under too much pressure to be able to be understood, even sometimes made fun of for not being able to understand English. I quickly learned through constant pressure and rush which affected my mental health severely but at the same time made me proficient in English in a short period of time. |

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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| Learning English pretty quickly made me a fast learner of many things, and it greatly helped me much more while living in a country where the main language spoken was primarily English. I was able to communicate better with my teachers and my peers and I was also able to help the people that yet could not speak the language very well. |

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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| It will show to anyone that comes to the country and has to learn English that although it will be a long and arduous process and that there will be a lot of obstacles along the way. But it is not impossible and with enough persistence one will succeed and will feel very accomplished once they can speak a whole new language. It will show that all of us immigrants can accomplish great things while being in this country. |