English 1A Spring 2017 **Your Literacy Narrative**

**Overview:** This summer, you read an essay by Sherman Alexie called “Superman and Me,” wherein Alexie discusses his early reading and writing and how he developed a sense of self through writing. **The essay you wrote for that prompt is a rough draft for this assignment, which you will improve and expand on.**

* **Topics:** Discuss how you feel about **yourself as a writer and a reader**. Consider all the writing and reading you do, not just schoolwork. Say something about your **skills** (strengths and weaknesses) and your **attitudes** about writing and maybe how they have changed as you have grown. This doesn’t have to be the focus, though. You can also discuss how your reading and/or writing affected your **choice of a career path** or how it **shaped your world view more generally**. ***Do keep the focus on your reading and writing***, though, not the many other forces that have shaped you.
* **Illustrate your claims** with details from your writing and reading. Use specifics—titles and details from the writings/readings, if possible, or genres, at least (the *kinds* of things you have read and written).
* Include, at least briefly, **a reference to one of the sample writing histories** we have read and/or discussed: Alexie, Zinsser, Agosin, X, and the student writers. You can quote or paraphrase, your choice, but if your audience isn’t your classmates, give it some context.
* Conclude by making some **overall assessment** of where you are now as a writer and where you hope to be by the end of the semester.
* The early draft might be messy, but the final draft should be a complete, well organized essay with an **introduction, separate paragraphs** (not necessarily 3!)**, and a conclusion**. Do your best with grammar, too.
* On the peer review day, **bring two copies of your draft, printed out. Rough Draft DUE: Friday 1 Sept**

**Specifications:**

* **Format:** Use MLA format. Include the word count.
* **Length: rough draft** 500-800 words **final draft**: 1000 words. (Please, no fluff!)
* **Title:** Begin with an effective title, not just “Writing History.”
* **Audience/forum:** Your English 1A class and instructor. If you prefer a wider audience, though, feel free to specify a different one, maybe the whole SJSU community (the forum could be the school paper, the Spartan Daily).
* **Canvas and hard copy:** When you are finished drafting, revising, and editing, upload your essay to Canvas AND print it out. **Bring the hard copy to class**, along with the peer review sheet and rough draft.
* **Final Draft** **DUE: Friday 8 Sept**

**Criteria for Grading:** Your paper will be judged on the following:

* how well it meets the requirements of the assignment
* how well its ideas are developed with specifics
* depth of thinking
* organization and coherence
* voice (does it sound generic or have personality?)
* control of language, style, mechanics