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Apr 8th, 10:10 AM - 11:10 AM

Reimagining the Narrative Essay

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Long, Rachel, "Reimagining the Narrative Essay" (2022). *Cavalier Conference on Writing and Literature*. 15.
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Digital Origin Story (A Multimodal Narrative Essay) Assignment

For this assignment, you will be using Microsoft Sway to create an interactive digital story. Create a personal origin story: the story of how you became your awesome self in some particular way—how one part of your identity developed. My example is my origin as an English instructor, for instance. Take your audience on a journey of the development of one aspect of your identity such as a hobby, your chosen career path, your lifestyle or culture, a role you play, a value that defines you, or a personality trait.

Click here to see my sample Sway story: [The Making of an English Teacher](#)

Format

As this is a multimodal assignment (can contain images, video, and audio as well as text), the parameters are a little different than if it were a strictly written narrative essay. The following are the required modalities to include in your Sway origin story:

- **Written text:** include at least 400 words of written text, not including your captions.
Write in complete sentences.
- **Images** (Jpeg format): include at least 3 photos that you caption; 1 must be of yourself
- **GIFs:** include at least 1 GIF to help you tell your story
- **Short video clips** (under 2 minutes total): include at least 1 video clip of yourself that helps tell your story. This can either be one you record now for this assignment or a video you already had that you caption to explain how it relates to your story.

Sway Tutorials:

Introduction to Sway: <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/getting-started-with-sway-2076c468-63f4-4a89-ae5f-424796714a8a?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us>

Add Video and Audio Files: <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/add-video-and-audio-files-into-sway-d2f14842-e103-49c0-9da2-0fbcfcad381f>

Import Content: <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/import-content-into-sway-96e42a2e-1f49-4360-aed5-7b30e7bcff42>

Embed Content: <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/embed-content-in-your-sway-1e1ab12a-f961-4a26-8afc-77a15f892b1d>

Qualities of a Multimodal Origin Story

- Tell a story that has a point, using the five W's and one H to help you construct it, regarding the origin of some facet of your identity
- Write in first person (I, me, my, mine), using language that is natural/authentic for you
- Have an engaging introduction with an identifiable thesis statement
- Reveal details of your story (including obstacles you overcame) through multiple modalities (written, visual, audio) to pace your story and create interactive opportunities to engage your reader
- Bring closure to your story so the reader knows where your origin story “ended”— where you are today regarding this particular journey

Topic Ideas

Hobbies: sports, fashion, music, gaming, reading, learning, building, fixing, racing, creating, etc.

Lifestyle and/or culture (this could potentially overlap with hobbies, values, or roles you play—that's fine as long as your focus is clear): farming, “green”, punk, minimalism, fitness & nutrition, meditation/awareness, LGBTQ, team fanatic, religious, etc.

Values that define you: perseverance, integrity, courage, authenticity, service, personal growth, knowledge, beauty, fairness, resourcefulness, creativity, equality, etc.

Roles you play: parent, student, leader

Personality traits: sense of humor, open-mindedness, sensitivity, optimism, adventurousness, responsibility, nurturing, assertiveness, friendliness, etc.

Assignment Value

The pre-writing is worth **10 points**. The **first draft** in Sway is worth **25 points**, and the peer review is worth **15 points**. The **final draft** is worth **100 points**. The total value of this assignment is worth 150 points.