ENG 100 (Dr. Hawkins)

Literacy Narrative
(Essay #1)

For this first major essay, I'd like each of you to explore some of the important moments in your own development as readers and writers, or as users of language generally. Your mission is to write a **3-5 page literacy narrative** that re-tells or analyzes one important scene, incident, experience, or character in your development as a reader, writer, or thinker.

A well-rounded narrative will more than likely make some reference to *what* happened, *who* was involved, *when* and *where* it happened, *how* it happened, and *why* it happened. Use all of the techniques of an essayist – image, scene, purpose, description – to both teach and delight your readers.

Try to devote equal time to both dramatizing the memory and pondering its significance for readers. Readers will want to know what you learned, why it's important to understand your story, and how your experience might help shed some light on their own. Your audience for this essay will be a familiar one (your peers and myself), so the style should be somewhat informal or familiar, with an eye to cultivating the reader's interest and understanding.

You've already been doing journal writing about positive and negative writing experiences, and you should use those as springboards to get you started thinking about your history with language. We'll also be working on other invention methods and ways of using our memories to come up with significant moments in our writing, reading and speaking lives. The assigned readings should also help you to see the different directions your narrative can take.

Guidelines:
- Workshop drafts and final, graded drafts must be typed and double-spaced. Use a standard font like Times New Roman or Arial in 10- or 12-point, and use one-inch margins on all sides. DO NOT double space between paragraphs.
- Put your name, my name, our course number (ENG100), and the date on separate lines in the top left-hand corner of your paper.
- Include page numbers at the bottom.
- Essays should be at least three FULL pages in length.