

ELL101: Assignment: My Linguistic Narrative

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MY LINGUISTIC NARRATIVE

Write a language narrative in which you describe yourself as a language user and learner. You may want to start with birth and go on from there, focusing on how you learned your first (second, third, etc.) language(s). Or, you may want to focus on one experience in which you understood something significant about how you and/or your family/friends use language in comparison to others. You will need to connect your language story to what you have learned this semester about language. Your narrative should include at least three references to the textbook.

Here are some questions to consider to get you started writing: (Note that you do not have to answer all of these questions in your essay. These questions are here to help you get started.)

Questions	Responses
1. What language(s) do you speak? (your native language(s), languages you learned after moving to another country, languages you studied in school, etc.) You can include the linguistic family each language belongs to.	
2. What language(s) do your family members use? (Read, write, speak, understand)	
3. What are your earliest memories of language? What role did family members, teachers, classmates, and/or friends play in your learning your first language(s)? (Try to incorporate what you learned about first language acquisition.)	
4. In general, how do you feel about your language skills? Evaluate your ability in each of the languages you know in terms of speaking, reading, and writing. If you speak more than one language, do you feel equally proficient in all languages or is one more dominant than the other(s)? Why do you think this is? (Try to incorporate what you learned about second language acquisition.)	
5. What language(s) do you speak at home? With friends? At work? At school? Elsewhere? Why? (Try to incorporate what you learned about sociolinguistics.)	
6. How does your speech vary throughout your day? (This is true even if you are using one language all day.) (Try to incorporate what you learned about sociolinguistics.)	
7. How has language shaped your academic life? Your work life? Your social life?	