

FOCI 222 Narrative Writing Assignment

approx. 500-1000 words

Narrative inquiry is a type of qualitative research that is becoming increasingly important in the field of educational knowledge development. It is based on the premise that people learn both through listening to stories and through *creating* (telling and crafting) stories.

The data that narrative researchers gather are stories. Re-telling or re-writing these stories (also known as re-storying) acts as a first stage of analysis; the re-storying forces the researcher to become intimately acquainted with the data, and so understand it better. When the re-storying is complete, the researcher identifies the new understandings s/he has come to. These new understandings of the stories amount to research findings: new knowledge has been developed. This assignment invites you to engage in narrative research – *to learn from your own stories*.

Topics: The premise behind this assignment is that you know an awful lot about interfaces and interactions between the arts, community, teaching, and learning. If this tacit understanding is articulated and analyzed, it can be profoundly informative to your personal development as an arts educator.

Draw from your own personal experiences of art(ists), community and education. Tell a story that is significant and meaningful to you. Tell a story that can help you understand who you are or want to be as an artist, community builder, and/or educator.

Assessment Rubric

Richness of Narrative: How well do you draw the reader into the story (descriptive detail)? *Please be aware: this process of richly telling your story allows you to come closer to it, providing you a better chance of understanding the knowledge embedded within.*

A (Excellent)

B (Very Good)

C (Adequate)

D (Marginal)

Analysis: Have you shown thoroughness and thoughtfulness delving into the meanings the story or stories hold? *What do the stories illuminate about yourself and your understanding of the arts or community or education and how they interact?*

A (Excellent)

B (Very Good)

C (Adequate)

D (Marginal)

Connections: How thoroughly have you pondered the implications for your own **future** work as an artist, or work with and in communities, or work as a teacher? Have you explained how the knowledge developed here might inform your work in these domains?

A (Excellent)

B (Very Good)

C (Adequate)

D (Marginal)