

# WRA 101 AY 2024–2025 SAMPLE ASSIGNMENT

## PROJECT 1 (P1): LEARNING NARRATIVE

For this project, you'll write a story about **an experience of learning** (either in or out of school), and reflect on what that experience has taught you about what it means to learn and what kind of learner you are now. No external research or sources are needed for this project.

The final draft of P1 should include:

- The story of your learning experience, including specific examples of what and how you learned (evidence)
- Reflection on and explanation of what the experience taught you
- A takeaway or main point about what it means to learn and/or what kind of learner you are now, tied to your experience and examples

### Goals for this project:

- To give you an opportunity to tell a story of your own history, from your own experience, that may be relevant to your own educational project now
- To give you an opportunity to understand more about yourself as a learner, in a way that may be useful to the work ahead
- To invite you to reflect on what learning is and involves

As material for your essay, you may choose to write about

- learning music or sports or art of some kind
- on-the-job learning
- something you learned from your family
- something you learned with your friends
- something you taught yourself to do
- scenes of formal schooling—influential people, places, events

You may also choose to tell a story that combines scenes from several learning experiences or life events. The best things to write about are events and situations that have turned out to be especially important or meaningful to you.

Often we learn best from mistakes we have made that have had difficult consequences. A basic premise of this class is that there are positive outcomes of “failure,” and that the trick is to respond productively. In keeping with this idea, the learning situations you choose for your narrative may represent bad experiences as well as good ones. It might also be **useful to think of the subject of your essay as a story of UNlearning**—of having to work against or relearn something you already knew.

This assignment—like others you'll do in this class—has multiple components. The first steps are intended to help facilitate the final draft:

1. A proposal and in-class proposal workshop (graded for completion)
2. A first draft of the project and in-class draft workshop (graded for completion)
3. A revision plan (graded for completion)
4. A final draft (graded for content and completion, 10% of final course grade)

P1 will be fast! We will plan for, write, workshop, revise, and reflect on P1 in the first 2 WEEKS of class!

Here are more details about all the steps of P1:

## 1. Proposal

Your first step will be to plan and propose an approach to this project. Your audience for this assignment is our class. We'll share our stories with each other to discover what experiences we have in common, and what we think we have learned from them.

Your proposal should address the following questions:

1. **Which events or situations will you discuss**, and why have you chosen these particular experiences? What do you think would surprise people most about your choices?
2. **When did these events happen**, and when did they become important to you?
3. **With whom** have you had and/or shared these experiences? Who else has such experiences? Who do you think may not have such experiences? Do you think the learning that has come from these experiences is common to others, or unique to you?
4. **What** did these events teach you about learning or yourself as a learner?
5. **What purposes** might you have for writing such a story? What is important for us to know about your experiences? Why do we need to know? Of all the stories you could possibly tell about your learning, why have you chosen this one?
6. What do you think **we (your readers)** may do with this knowledge? How will we learn from it?
7. **What effects might your story have** on your readers? Will it make us feel joyful? Sorrowful? Amused? Ambivalent? Hopeful? Will it invite us to reflect on our own experiences?
8. **What sort of a story** may these events help you tell about your learning? What is the lesson of the story? That is, is this a story of a lesson learned from failure? Of triumph over adversity? Of an epiphany? Of slow and steady development? Of learning from doing? Of learning by accident? Of relearning a thing already learned? Of resisting learning? Of "unlearning?"

## 2. First Draft

Once you've submitted and reviewed your proposal in class, you'll draft an essay based on the proposal (and any relevant feedback).

Criteria for success:

1. **Beginning:** Your narrative should have an introductory section that gives your readers a sense of what your story will be about and what the main takeaway is or will be.
2. **Middle:** Your narrative should be developed by way of paragraphs that follow from your introduction.
3. **Middle:** Your narrative should include evidence in the form of examples from your experience, and the evidence should support the main point or takeaway.
4. **End:** Your story should have a concluding section that helps your readers understand how the story has resolved (what is the lesson or main takeaway of the story?).
5. **Scope:** The length of your narrative should be based on your purposes and audience (aim for 1000 - 1200 words in length, or 3 to 4 pages, double spaced).
6. **Title:** Your narrative should have a title (*not* "Learning Narrative").

### 3. Revision Plan

Informed by feedback from your peer reviewers, you will draft a revision plan that describes how your revised essay will differ from the one you proposed and submitted for your first draft review. Your revision plan should address questions provided in Eli Review.

Successful revision plans will make direct references to the proposal and first draft, and the comments from your peer reviewers. In other words, you will quote or paraphrase things you said in your proposal and draft and suggestions made by your reviewers.

### 4. Final Draft

Using feedback from peers and your revision plan, revise your narrative, and turn in the final draft for grading.

Criteria for success:

1. **Beginning:** Your narrative should have an introductory section that gives your readers a sense of what your story will be about and what the main takeaway is or will be.
2. **Middle:** Your narrative should be developed by way of paragraphs that follow from your introduction.
3. **Middle:** Your narrative should include evidence in the form of examples from your experience, and the evidence should support the main point or takeaway.
4. **End:** Your story should have a concluding section that helps your readers understand how the story has resolved (what is the lesson or main takeaway of the story?).
5. **Scope:** The length of your narrative should be based on your purposes and audience (aim for 1000 - 1200 words in length, or 3 to 4 pages, double spaced).
6. **Title:** Your narrative should have a title (*not* "Learning Narrative").