Literacy Autobiography Essay

Over the past couple of weeks, we have read a bunch of literacy biographies. Malcolm X learned how to read by copying the dictionary. Sherman Alexi gained literacy from Superman comic books. Myles Horton noticed the contradiction between what he learned in books and what he learned from his real-world experiences. Jimmy Santiago Baca discovered that language could allow him to escape the walls of his prison cell. Then, you read my literacy autobiography, and I revealed my own struggles with language.

Now, it’s your turn.

You will write an 8 paragraph literacy autobiography essay. Since this essay is a narrative (a story about your life), it isn’t terribly formal. So, don’t worry about Toulmin paragraphs. Just make sure that you write a good, meaningful essay.

**Essay Requirements:**
- Answer all the following questions (not necessarily in order)
- At least 600 words (the sample you read yesterday was 1300 words long)
- Typed on a Google Document and shared with me
- Include your Name, Date, Period, and an Original Title
- Peer Reviewed
- Each section is answered in at least 2 paragraphs
- Each paragraph has at least 5 sentences
- Each idea logically flows to the next using transitional phrases when necessary
- Each section contains at least 2 transitional phrases
Transitional Phrases

**Consequence or Result**
So that, with the result that, thus, consequently, for this reason, therefore, so, because, since, due to, as a result, then, in fact

**Time**
After, afterward, before, then, once, next, last, at last, at length, at first, rarely, usually, another, finally, soon, meanwhile, at the same time, for a minute, hour, day, etc., during the morning, day, week, etc., later, ordinarily, to begin with, afterwards, generally, in order to, subsequently, previously, in the meantime, immediately, eventually, simultaneously

**Contrast**
On the contrary, but, however, nevertheless, in spite of, in contrast, yet, on one hand, on the other hand, rather, or, nor, conversely, at the same time, while this may be true

**Addition**
And, in addition to, furthermore, moreover, besides, too, also, both _____ and _____, another, equally important, again, further, last, finally, not only _____ but also _____, as well as, next, likewise, similarly

**Examples**
For example, for instance, to illustrate, thus, in other words, as an illustration, in particular.
Essay Sections:
Section #1: Early Memories

- What are some early memories of reading and writing?
- Which of these events have impacted you the most?
- What don’t you remember about learning to read and write?
- Were your early experiences with reading and writing more positive or more negative?
- How have these early experiences impacted how you view literacy today?

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Section #2: Formal Learning

☐ What experiences in school had the greatest impact on your literacy?
☐ Were these experiences more positive or more negative?
☐ How have these formal learning experiences impacted how you view literacy today?

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Section #3: Informal Learning

☐ What experiences outside of school had the greatest impact on your literacy?

☐ Were these experiences more positive or more negative?

☐ How have these informal learning experiences impacted how you view literacy today?

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Section #4: Still Learning

- What are you still learning about reading and writing?
- Where are you currently learning about literacy? Is it informal or formal learning?
- Do you currently have a more positive or a more negative view of your own literacy? Why?

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