



ENGL 1023

Essay Assignment 1: Literacy Critique

In this paper, you must identify and critique a common **construct** about writing. A construct is a misconception about writing that a large part of the public holds (e.g., longer writing is better, writing is all about grammar, good writers use big words).

You will write the Literacy Critique using a combination of your own experience with the chosen construct and additional research you do about the construct. Your additional source could be an interview, poll, or survey in which you get other people's thoughts on the construct. It could also be a news article or website that discusses the construct.

Your instructor may allow you to write this assignment in another genre, such as a blog post or letter to the editor. The genre you choose will determine your paper's length, tone, and citation methods.

Introduction:

Your introduction should identify the construct you will write about and summarize your own stance on the construct. For example, if you choose to write about the construct that longer writing is better, you should not only identify that as your construct but also explain how valid you believe it to be.

Example: Many people assume that longer writing is better, but this misconception does not hold up under closer scrutiny. In fact, good writing can be anywhere from thousands of pages to just six words. When it comes to writing, quality is more important than quantity.

Body:

The body of your essay should go into greater detail about the construct you chose. Effective questions to ask include:

- What personal experiences have you had with the construct?
- What experiences have other people had with the construct (primary research like conducting an informal poll, survey, or interview may be useful)
- How did the construct originate?
- How has your construct been perpetuated by the media or other influential sources?
- How do you think the construct could be combated or even eliminated?

Conclusion:

Your conclusion should address the "so what" question—why does your essay matter?

Example: If we continue to perpetuate this myth that longer writing is better, then students will feel pressured to "fluff up" their writing with redundancy and empty words.