

# LITERACY SELF-STUDY

## Understanding Literacy Practices and Strategies



### Why are you doing this?

The concepts and strategies you learn in this course will be most useful to your future academic and professional endeavors if you have a clear sense of your needs as a writer and the ways in which different writing skills and strategies work differently for different writing situations. In short, you need to know yourself as a writer: What specific writing skills do you possess? What skills do you need to develop? What strategies work best for you in what writing situations? What writing challenges do you experience for which you need strategies?

Rather than reflect back on your process, habits, and strategies as a reader and writer at the END of the quarter, you are going to record your process throughout the quarter while working on a formal writing assignment: the Synthesis assignment. As you work through the process of responding to an academic writing task, you will have real-time opportunities to observe and record the actions and decisions you make as a writer through Process Journal entries and other class activities. You will then be asked to analyze the data you have collected and share significant findings in this Literacy Self-Study.

### What will you produce?

You will create a Literacy Self-Study that highlights your own reading and writing practices and habits, revealing some of the often invisible strategies and experiences that influence *how* and *why* you read and write the way you do.

Your Literacy Self-Study (**Findings Page** on the website) will

- 1) **describe** findings you've made about yourself as a college reader and writer;
- 2) **argue** why those findings are meaningful to your continued development as a college writer;
- 3) **support** that argument using specific evidence drawn from UWP 7 materials and course readings.

Your audience is yourself and your instructor. This reflection is done for you to notice patterns in your own writing and reading practices and set a goal for future classes.

## What are the requirements of your Literacy Self-Study?

You will publish your Self-Study in the form of a Website (we can use [Google Sites](#), [Weebly](#), or other websites that you are familiar with). As such, you will need to demonstrate an awareness of the conventions of reflective, evaluative writing AND multi-page, multi-modal websites.

### Reflective Writing Requirements

You will examine and reflect upon all the activities and materials of this course and choose the most significant findings to write about. While some of the content of your self-study will refer to what seems most significant to you. In addition to the **synthesis paper**, you are **required** to reflect upon and write about **three additional activities** in your Literacy Self-Study:

- **your Synthesis paper (e.g. drafts, revisions, processes, etc.) – required**
- your Process Journal entries (a single entry or a trend across entries)
- Peer Review (your drafts, comments you left on other drafts)
- revision practices (how you have revised your writing)
- your required conference with your instructor
- any completed in-class work, activities, or Google Slides Presentations

Your self-study should be written in first person and follow the general conventions of academic writing (concision, cohesion, thoughtful organization, attribution, and semi-formal register). **You must reference at least 2 course readings** as you discuss each of your findings: draw from these course readings to provide appropriate contextualizing support for your own arguments.

### Multi-page, multi-modal website requirements

Your Google site must include:

1. a **home landing page** with a short introduction to you, your literacy background, your academic goals and activities, and a portrait/picture of yourself
2. one page that highlights each of your **key findings** (three minimum) with **examples from your writing** and how they relate to your background and the **course readings**
3. one page that features your **synthesis paper** as an example of your writing
4. one page of **references**
5. a **cover letter** explaining what you would like feedback on and/or how you have revised at each step of the process
6. thoughtfully selected visual elements that support your claims

This content should be organized across multiple pages in a logical order making navigation easy for the user. Visual elements should be purposeful and clear, accompanying the text in meaningful rather than merely decorative ways.

Here is an [example website](#) that we can talk about in class. Here's [another](#).

## How will your work be evaluated?

Your work will be assessed based upon the criteria listed below and the policies outlined in the course syllabus.

<u>Criteria:</u>		Points
<b>Deploy Critical Self-Reflection Strategies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe findings about yourself as a college writer that you've made through analysis of course materials and activities.</li> <li>Argue why those discoveries/findings are meaningful to your continued development as a college writer.</li> <li>Connect arguments about those discoveries to supporting evidence.</li> </ul>	0.3
<b>Use Sources Effectively</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Present particular exhibits from course materials to illustrate discoveries.</li> <li>Draw from course readings to provide appropriate contextualizing support for your own argument (using course readings as background, exhibit, argument, or method sources).</li> <li>Reference source materials purposefully, utilizing the most effective genre of source reference (quoting, paraphrasing, summarizing) given your purpose.</li> </ul>	0.3
<b>Use Language &amp; Visuals Strategically</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make language choices that reflect the writing situation (writing for your instructors as the audience within the genre of a Google site).</li> <li>Demonstrate sentence-level revising and editing to improve clarity and accuracy.</li> <li>Thoughtfully select visual elements that support your claims</li> </ul>	0.2
<b>Reflect on areas for revision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include a <b>2 paragraph-long cover memo</b> in which you detail what you'd like to focus on during peer review or one-on-one conferences and what you think are the strengths and areas for improvement of the draft. Follow the instructions on the Canvas assignment, as the Memo guidelines may differ based on the submission.</li> </ul>	0.2

