

Literacy Interviews

Our goal with this discovery is to gather literacy narratives from our family and/or friends and then use these stories to compare to the reading we are doing together. Below are some guiding questions you can use, but think of this work more as a *conversation* with someone about their memories and ideas related to reading and writing.

Start by asking a family member or friend if you can talk to them about their memories of reading and writing. The best interviews are with someone who is older. If you have a grandparent you can talk to or a parent, an aunt, then that is super cool. (As a class, we should try to avoid having only interviews with roommates; it would be better to have a broad data set.)

For the interview, they could either answer questions over email, you could record a Skype or Zoom conversation (this will be seen only by you, not shared with our class: you'll use the video for your written memo), or take notes while you talk to them face to face (social distance and mask to mask if needed) or on the phone. You might want to try out a great app called [Otter.ai](https://otter.ai), which captures a transcript of conversation. Try to capture as much as you can exactly what they say.

You do not need to ask all the questions below. *Choose a couple questions* that seem relevant for the person and then hopefully the questions will kick off a conversation about literacy.

Potential Interview Questions—

1. Try to think of your earliest memories of writing and reading. What do you remember of reading and writing *before* you began school? Who helped you with it and what was that like?
2. What kinds of writing did you see your parents, siblings, and other family members doing as you were growing up? What did they read, where, and when?
3. What stories did your parents tell you about their own efforts to learn to read and write? What kinds of values did they place on reading and writing?
4. How did reading and writing change as you entered elementary school? What did you do with it?

5. What are you asked to do with reading and writing at this point in your lives?
6. When you were growing up, how much school reading and school writing was done with computers? What kinds of things did you do? What values did your teachers place on computer literacy?
7. In the next ten years, what will reading and writing become? What skills and understandings about online literacy will people need to have? What about emojis and gifs and screen time? Why do you think this?