

TSIS WORKSHEET ON WHAT OTHERS SAY

ENGL 108 / SEC. H & I / SUMMER LEAP 2009 / OLDHAM & RUBASKY / CHANG & LEE



Beginning With What Others Are Saying

In the introduction to *They Say, I Say*, Graff and Birkenstein emphasize that one of the most important skills in good academic writing is to “write the voices of others into your text,” or more specifically, to think of your writing as a response to other ideas (3).

The readings for this week (Douglass, Alexie, King and Tan) are all stories about the way literacy formed a part of these authors’ experiences as readers and writers. While they have some similarities between them, each text uses literacy in different ways to explain its purpose in each story, specific to the writers’ experiences. In other words, literacy means something distinct for each author, and the narratives show what literacy did for each of these people in turn.

Because we are asking you to incorporate one of the readings into your own Literacy Narrative, use the template below to help you get at the purpose of literacy in the stories we have read so far, so you can use their understandings of literacy to add to your own in your paper. Though Douglass’ name is in the template, it will work with any of the readings, so choose which one you want to write about. Think of this template as a way to generate a body paragraph in your own paper:

Douglass begins his narrative with an anecdote. The purpose of this anecdote is to describe literacy as

_____. An important realization about literacy happens when
_____.

This affects Douglass because _____
_____.

As the narrative continues, another example of literacy affecting Douglass’ life is when _____
_____. This supports/changes his
earlier experience with literacy because _____
_____.

At the beginning, literacy for Douglass meant _____
_____, and this turned into _____
_____ as a result of his experiences.

Ultimately Douglass tells us that literacy made him understand that _____
_____ and helped him to
_____,
which is important for him because _____
_____.