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English 102

4 April 2010

Research Proposal

Writing Assignment #4

Literacy sponsors and the true definition of literacy, the language of music, and African American firsts at Texas A&M University at Commerce; these were the choices I had for a final project. These subjects go way deeper than what they appear. Literacy sponsors can help you develop a definition of literacy, music has its own kind of language, and the African American firsts here on campus were the stepping stones for employment of individuals of other races here on campus.

For my final project, I decided to use my first writing assignment about my literacy sponsors. The research question that I proposed in this essay is “What is the true definition of literacy, and what significances do literacy sponsors hold in helping you develop this definition?” Deborah Brandt describes a literacy sponsor as a factor that can help and or our ability to develop reading and writing skills. But when deeply explored, what do the literacy sponsors really do? How do they help or hurt us develop good reading and writing skills.

This research question is important to me because everyone has their own definition of literacy. My sponsors helped me to develop my own personal definition of literacy. I don't plan to talk about any kind of literacy, I plan on talking about educational literacy such as the ability to read and write. To me literacy isn't just the ability to read and write, but the ability to read and write well. All of my sponsors played an important role in helping me develop this

definition. My mom made it clear to me how important having the ability to read and write well was, my junior English teacher Mr. Newman made me realize that literacy wasn't all black and white like I thought it was, and my senior English teacher Mrs. Merriman was always there to encourage me to keep moving forward.

The main source I want to use is interviews from my old high school classmates. We may have had different opinions and interpreted our teachers teaching styles differently. My friends may also have a different definition of educational literacy. The parents may have thought them the importance of literacy differently. Many of their parents may have told them that learning how to read and write well wasn't important, and many of them may have told them that it is really important. I also plan to search for several other definitions and compare all of them.

My research question has direct connection to literacy. I will be exploring different definitions of literacy, and somewhat putting them together to create one true definition of literacy. I will also be describing and giving examples of how sponsors of literacy can help a person develop a definition of literacy. Sponsors are people who help or hurt you develop your own literacy skills. I will be drawing from Deborah Brandt's views on literacy sponsors, and Barton and Hamilton's view on literacy as a social practice.

I have a ton of research to do in my quest to discover a true definition of literacy. Instead of me thinking that it is just the ability to read and write well, maybe in my research I will discover that it is something much deeper than that. With this final project I am hoping to help develop a new opinion of literacy, or expand my own opinion of it.