

## Literacy Practices and Schooling

### Possible readings for this assignment:

Andrea Fishman, "Becoming Literate: A Lesson from the Amish"

Darcy Frey, "The Last Shot"

June Jordan, "Don't Nobody Mean More to Me Than You and the Future Life of Willie Jordan"

Malcolm X, "Saved"

Ron Suskind, "Fierce Intimacies"

James Traub, "Testing, Testing"

### Strategies we'll work on here:

**Rhetorical Analysis:** analyzing how writers learn about genres and conventions

**Critical thinking, reading, and writing:** Using writing to analyze your experiences and those of others; textual analysis; using writing to engage in and demonstrate inquiry processes; **Processes:** using writing to describe, analyze, and reflect, and giving feedback to your colleagues' writing. **Knowledge of Conventions:** analyzing and employing genres, using MLA citations, editing.

In this assignment, analyze the experiences of one of the main characters included in readings by Fishman, Frey, Jordan or Suskind and by analyzing your own experiences. Ultimately, in your analysis of the experiences of one of the characters here and of your own experiences, you should address the questions: **How did the subject of the reading you choose learn which genres were associated with school, and which not? How did you learn to distinguish between school- and non-school literacy genres? Based on your analysis, do you have recommendations for boundaries between in- and out-of-school genres?**

To begin working on this assignment, you'll need to choose a reading on which to focus. Ultimately, you'll want to choose one reading to work with, and then analyze it closely. You'll need to use abundant evidence from the reading to support your analysis of how <the subject/s of the reading> defined in- and out-of-school literacy practices.

You'll also need to focus on your own literacy practices, and it might be easier to develop a sense of this term by starting with what's more familiar-you-and then moving to readings. Consider your own definition of "right" and "wrong" inside of school and out. What practices are right/wrong in what situation?

Finally, when you've finished your analysis of both readings and experiences, you should consider its relevance. Based on it, do you think more or less should be included in "appropriate" school literacy practices? Why?

SE1: To begin thinking through this question, focus on your own experiences. What do you define as in-school and out-of-school genres, and why? Where did you learn that these practices were "appropriate" for the locations they were?

SE 2: This time, focus on the reading that you'll use for this assignment. What genres are defined as "appropriate" for in- and out-of-school for the main subjects there? Based on what's included in the chapter, how do you think the character/s you're focusing on learned that these practices were appropriate for their locations? When you do this developing work, either include as many examples from the reading as possible, or write (for your own reference) brief summaries of the examples that you can develop in the long essay. Also, remember to include page numbers! It will save you a lot of time because you won't have to search through the reading to find something that you remember, but can't quite locate. You also will probably want to make notes in the margin of your book next to the examples you're going to use about how they illustrate what you say they do-this way, you'll have a record of your thinking.