

Write a Personal Anecdote

COM102 Minor Assignment

Your Task

Write an anecdote of no more than about a page or so. Base it on personal experience. Your narrative may concern something that happened to you, or it may concern something that you witnessed but that happened to someone else. You may, like most of Labov's speakers, tell about a situation in which you felt yourself to be in danger, but as Labov points out, memorable events can be "weird, wild, crazy, or amusing, hilarious and



wonderful" as well. After you have written your anecdote, refer to Pratt's list of six parts of the anecdote (page 7) and make sure that yours is formally complete.

More than "Creative" Writing

This is a writing assignment that looks like "creative" writing in a way, but that really has another purpose. The purpose is to demonstrate that you have indeed learned to use the analytic structure of Labov and can turn that analysis upon your own writing to make sure all the elements are there. Have fun writing your anecdote, but also use it to demonstrate mastery of the concepts concerned.

Evaluation Criteria

This minor assignment is just a step towards something much larger that we will soon be working on, and, as such, it will receive "formative" points only. However, let me stress the importance of completing this assignment to the best of your abilities. It will quite literally form the basis upon which the next assignments will be built. If you don't do this well, you will be at a disadvantage in subsequent projects.

Due

Bring your personal anecdote to our next class meeting.