

Personal Reading History

Part I.

For this assignment, you will be thinking about some key moments or events in your development as a reader. You will have 10 minutes to think about and record:

- What experiences stand out for you?
- Were there times when your reading experience or the materials you were reading made you feel like an insider? An outsider?
- What supported your literacy development? What discouraged it?
- What barriers did you encounter and then overcome?
- If you wish, create a timeline or some other graphic representation that illustrates your journey as a reader.

Part II.

Share some highlights of your reading history with a partner. Make sure that each of you has had an opportunity to read or tell your story uninterrupted before you respond to what you've heard (3 minutes each).

After you have read uninterrupted, discuss and record your thoughts (4 minutes):

What similarities did you and your partner have?	What surprised you

Part III. Group Discussion

- What conclusions can we draw about the impact of reading experiences in people's lives?
- How might teachers and students benefit from doing Personal Reading Histories in class?