

For next class: Find two or more sources that define something related to your topic. You want two sources that have competing narratives. You are to read both and consider both narratives. Then write a ADAPTED précis for the one with which you favor.. Make sure you include direct evidence AND the competing narrative within your précis. Use Maxson's example to help you.

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#### Becoming A Writer: Narrative Précis

Gregory Shafer's article, "Imagine You're A Writer" (2003) in *Teaching English In Two Year College* journal, suggests that students need to position themselves as writers in order to progress in their writing. Shafer supports his idea that "student... imagine themselves to be writers—rather than servants of academic protocol by threading the story of Jodie throughout his article. He states, "I first met Jodie inside the classroom. She approached me with a quiet smile that signalled deference and a paper clutched tightly between her fingers. "This isn't double-spaced and I think I messed up on the grammar... Maybe you'd look at it?"... For Jodie, this [transformation from student to writer] meant that within her taxing job at a nursing home—where she was subjected daily to racism from patients who refused her services because of her race—there was a challenge of discovering what this experience meant to her as an individual."

Shafer uses Jodie's story as a touchstone through his argument to prove his point; she acts as his case study, of sorts. This rhetorical strategy contrasts to Hinchman et al's article, "Supporting Older Students' In- and Out-of-School Literacies (2003) in which they offer snippets of several students stories at the begin of the article to set an imaginary world for their readers. Shafer's purpose is to use Jodie's story and her transformation in order to prove his point that the student's perspective about why s/he writes matters. Given the appeal to pathos used in the article and the simply language, Shafer is writing to secondary educators who value their personal experiences with students.