

Literacy is not only composed of written language and the comprehension of that language, but it is the bedrock of all culture and situation. In order to effectively function in a society, a person must first be capable of reading and writing the language of their society. More importantly, a person must be able to understand why those words were chosen to be placed in such a spatial arrangement, and what weight they carry in their meaning. Culture also encourages literacy by providing ever-changing and developing generational improvements within a society and its economy, citing endless outlets of “literacy sponsors”. As Deborah Brandt so accurately stated in her research article *Sponsors of Literacy*, “Patterns of sponsorship...track the different cultural attitudes people developed toward writing vs. reading...[and] the ideological congestion faced by late-century literacy learners.” (73) In my personal experience with literacy and its impact on my societal and situational identity, I have found that our society is in a continuous state of “new”. New technology, new ideologies and methodologies, and new techniques that we are all struggling to keep up with and be aware of, in order to prevent ourselves from falling behind the learning curve, and becoming prey to ignorance; the same can be said about writing and its evolution throughout time. Authors are consistently coming up with new methods and reasoning in their writing style to be learned, analyzed, and replicated on multiple platforms. In an excerpt from *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, X described his feelings of complete frustration and embarrassment in the fact that he was unable to effectively sustain his writing skills with the developing times: “In the street, I had been the most articulate hustler out there... But now, trying to write simple English, I not only wasn’t articulate, I wasn’t even functional.” (107) Further demonstrating the importance of literacy and its connection to culture and society, and how our competitive human nature provides yet another constant literacy sponsor in our everyday lives.