**English 300**

**Literacy Sponsor Analysis Assignment.**

**Our Imagined Scenario:**

*Young Scholars in Writing*, a journal that publishes college students’ academic writing about writing, is developing a special issue on how different literacy sponsors (people, literacy programs, and institutions) impact people as they gain various levels and types of literacy – reading and writing skills.

The journal is soliciting from students persuasive analyses of four to six pages concerning such sponsors’ influences on their literacy development, especially its most recent and mature developments. The journal will give highest consideration to essays in which writers like you reflect on your experience through the lens of Deborah Brandt’s concepts of Literacy Sponsorship, so making meaningful reference to Brandt’s article is required. (Your essay’s layout should be Times New Roman font, 12pt, double spaced, one-inch margins, no extra space between paragraphs.)

One key quotation from the Call for Papers is this: “Explain to readers of *Young Scholars in Writing* – college writing students and their teachers – how your various experiences with people, programs, and institutions (both in and out of school) have influenced the development of your literacy skills, habits, and/or attitudes, especially those related to writing. These people may be your parents and teachers but also others, like librarians and Big Brothers/Sisters. These programs could be those like Book Buddies, Accelerated Learning, and your public library’s Summer Reading program. These institutions may be your schools, of course, but also others, like public libraries, churches/synagogues/temples, or Oprah’s Book Club. Please defend a thesis asserting how such sponsors helped you become as skilled a writer your perceive yourself to be. Then, using concepts from Deborah Brandt’s article “Sponsors of Literacy,” analyze/argue how several major sponsors of your literacy development influenced – for better or worse – your having developed to this level. Notice that this analysis will involve cause-effect thinking, so as topic sentences for your supporting paragraphs, you should assert claims about how a specific sponsor or sponsorship experience caused you to develop particular literacy skills. Such specific topic sentences tend to lead to more persuasively detailed supporting analysis, which we tend to evaluate as more effective and then choose to publish.”

Your essay, then, should be a small-scale, persuasive research project in which you (your literacy experiences) are your source for “primary research” and Brandt’s article is your “secondary” source and analytic perspective.

**Grading:**

The following criteria, described in our course Portfolio Rubric, apply to this assignment:

* Argumentation
* Analysis
* Synthesis
* Forms and Conventions
* Rhetorical Situation