

Reading Journal

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Title of Article + Proper MLA Citation for Works Cited page	What Is Literacy? Gee, James Paul. "What Is Literacy?" <i>Journal of Education</i> , Vol. 171, No. 1, 1989, pp. 18-23.
Summarize the article -- include your reaction, thoughts, anything to help you remember its claims. 100 to 150 words	Dr. Gee uses his writing to explain the connections between literacy, identity, and privilege. He also introduces the term <i>discourse</i> to the reader and explains what it means in a literary context. He elaborates over how discourses can be anything from heritage and ethnicity to upbringing and socioeconomic class. Dr. Gee then discusses the system of how we approach everything in life. He claims every new situation that we experience in life requires us to learn and acquire new information to be better prepared for it in the future. He then ties this back into his previous ideas of discourses in a literary sense. Dr. Gee explains that every form of literacy that one partakes in at school is a way of discovering one's embedded discourses.
Define new terms and concepts by quoting or paraphrasing the original author.	Discourse- A socially accepted association among ways of using language, of thinking, and of acting that can be used to identify oneself as a member of a socially meaningful group or social network. (Gee 18). "Think of discourse as an "identity kit" which comes complete with the appropriate costume and instructions on how to act and talk so as to take on a particular role that others will recognize." (Gee 18).

How does this reading connect to other articles from class and/or your own research?	Similar to the past readings, this one also really emphasized the connection between background and identity with literary skills and the idea of everyone having an individualized literary identity. This article, similar to Deborah Brandt's "Sponsors of Literacy" article, develops off the idea of everyone having their own literary identity by providing a thought as to the source of one's literary identity. Dr. Gee proposes that it is our discourses that are the root of our literary identities and that those discourses are formed by a number of different demographics.
Based on the reading, craft one question to act as a springboard for class discussion.	Do you think it is easy or challenging to find our own literary discourses?