

What's Your Story?

Personal Narrative Essay Assignment

Assignment: For this writing assignment, you will write an essay about an incident or experience in your life that has been meaningful to you. Choosing a very specific place or time will help you write the essay. Develop the essay with details that will demonstrate the significance of your experience.

What is a Narrative Essay?

“Narrative” means telling what happened. An essay is different from a story in that the narrative in the essay is a tool that’s used to make a point. It’s pretty likely that you will not discover the point until you have spent some time working on it.

Your essay must:

- Be 2-3 pages, typed, MLA format
- Meet the prompt topic
- Include a hook/thesis, sensory details, direct quotes/dialogue, and meet all of the rubric requirements

How will it be graded?

Your grade will be based not only on the final product, but also on showing that you **completed all the steps of the writing process**. These steps are:

- Graphic Organizer (homework grade) due: **Thursday, October 26**
- Peer Editing Workshop #1 (class grade): **Thursday, October 26**
- Peer Editing Workshop #2 (class grade): **Monday, October 30**
- Final Essay (test grade) due via Google Docs: **Thursday, November 2, by midnight**

What makes a good personal narrative?

- A good personal narrative will take the reader step by step through the experience.
- A good personal narrative uses the senses to describe things. The reader wants to smell, touch, taste, hear and see the story unfold.
- A good personal narrative incorporates dialogue and metaphors along with good sensory description.
- A good personal narrative doesn't have to be 100% truthful. If bending the truth effectively enhances part of the experience, then that’s ok.

Guided Notes

The Narrative Essay: It Differs from a Simple Story!

What is a narrative essay?

A narrative is a story that has a specific point.

A narrative essay strives to _____

A narrative essay strives to make a specific point

A narrative essay is NOT a _____ ---the story is linked to the purpose of the essay

What should be included in a narrative essay?

Often written in _____ I or we because it's based on a personal story

Can NEVER be written in _____ person

Has specific sensory details to get the reader hooked on the story

Is developed in _____

Has _____ to help paint a picture and draw in the reader

What else does a narrative essay need?

Since this is a story, the narrative essay needs everything a story needs (known as the story elements):

- plot

- _____

- a problem

- a climax

- _____

Planning the narrative essay

_____ for a personal story or observation

Write a _____, just as any other essay, that goes along with the story or observation

_____ the important parts of the story

Write an introductory paragraph that includes the _____, and then write the story!

Because this is a _____, use as many or as few paragraphs as you need

Write the conclusion that _____ the thesis statement

Start with a thesis statement

The thesis will depend upon the _____

The thesis can be something _____ in the case of a narrative.

For example: "Oftentimes people do not follow simple directions. However, these campers learned how important following directions can be."

Additional Ideas for Your Thesis

Without a thesis, or point, you are not writing a _____, but a narrative - make sure to have a _____. You can get help finding a point when you:

- Think about sayings or quotes that _____

- Think about a time when you learned something _____

- Read _____ to get good ideas

- Think back to _____ you've heard your friends or family tell

Writing Exercise #1: Ghost Story



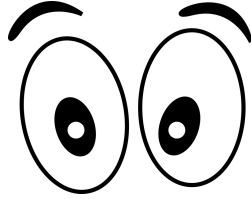
Prompt: Have you or anyone you know ever had a ghostly encounter? What happened? Write the narrative below. Remember, in a personal narrative, things don't have to be 100% true (so if you don't have an actual story...make one up).

Beginning

Middle

End

Writing Exercise #2



Directions: Convert these “telling” statements into “showing” statements.

Tell: Ms. Hall was upset with a student.

Show:

Tell: The cake was disgusting.

Show:

Tell: Science class was boring today.

Show:

Tell: After it rained, a rainbow appeared.

Show:

Tell: They gave the dog a bath.

Show:

Tell: There was a castle in the distance.

Show:

Your Name

Ms. Hall

English 1 CP

9 November 2016

Creative, Interesting Title!

Begin writing your personal narrative essay! Remember, it can have as many or as little paragraphs as you need - it doesn't *need* to be a five-paragraph essay. It is much more creative than that! Also remember your first sentence should be the hook/thesis. This sentence is the one that captures the reader's attention and also lets them know what the essay is going to be about by introducing the topic.

Please also remember to look at the assignment sheet on page 1 of your packet and the rubric found on page 2. Those two pages include all that you are expected to have in your personal narrative essay and the things that you will be graded on. Happy writing!

Writing Great Dialogue

Dialogue Punctuation Rules

Get ahead of the game! Learn these rules, and you'll avoid obvious mistakes:

1. Use a comma between the dialogue and the tag line (the words used to identify the speaker: "he said/she said"):

"I would like to go to the beach this weekend," she told him as they left the apartment.

2. Periods and commas go inside the quotation marks in American writing (the British have slightly different rules); other punctuation -- semicolons, question marks, dashes, and exclamation points -- goes outside unless it directly pertains to the material within the quotes, as in this example from Raymond Carver's short story "Where I'm Calling From":

"I don't want any stupid cake," says the guy who goes to Europe and the Middle East. "Where's the champagne?" he says, and laughs.

In the next example, the question mark goes outside the quotation marks because it is not part of the material being quoted:

Did he say, "We should all go to the movies"?

Also note that the sentence ends with only one mark of punctuation: the question mark. Don't use double punctuation marks - go with the stronger punctuation. (For example, question marks and exclamation points are stronger than commas and periods.)

3. When a tag line interrupts a sentence, it should be set off by commas. Note that the first letter of the second half of the sentence is in lowercase, as in this example from Flannery O'Connor's story "Greenleaf":

"That is," Wesley said, "that neither you nor me is her boy..."

4. To signal a quotation within a quotation, use single quotes:

"Have you read 'Hills Like White Elephants' yet?" he asked her.

Write down, in proper format, a dialogue that you had with someone today or that you overheard:

What's Your Story?

Personal Narrative Graphic Organizer

Essay Title:

Narrative Summary

What happened?



Where/when did it happen?



What's the point/meaning?



Essay Details

Characters:



Ideas for a Hook:



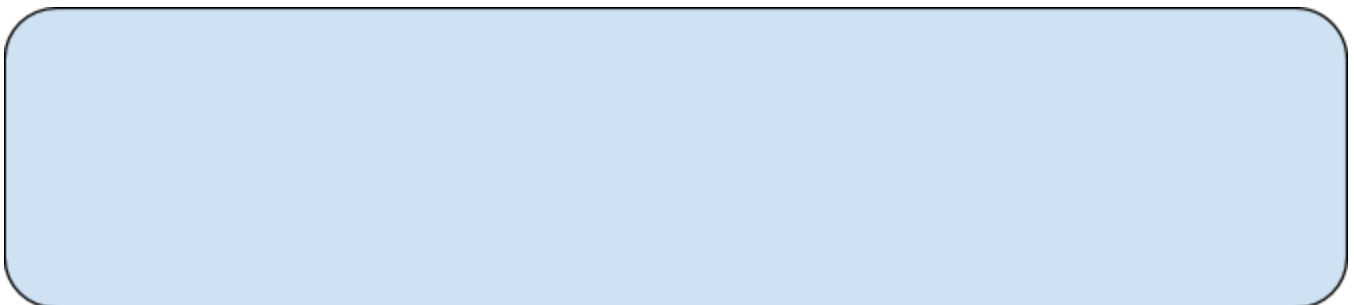
Beginning:



Middle:



End:



Peer Editing workshop #1

Writer's Name: _____

1st Editor's Name: _____

Is the writer's hook engaging? Yes No

Is the thesis/purpose of the essay clear? Yes No

Write the thesis on the line: _____

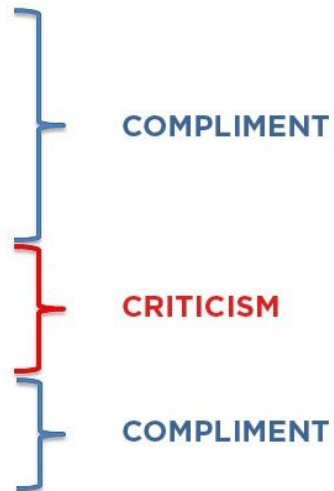
Is the essay organized well? (Beginning, middle, end, and transitions) Yes No

Is the author's voice/personality apparent? Yes No

How many mechanical, grammatical errors did you find?

Few Several Too many

Compliment Sandwich:



Peer Editing workshop #2

Writer's Name: _____

2nd Editor's Name: _____

Is the writer's hook engaging? Yes No

Is the thesis/purpose of the essay clear? Yes No

Write the thesis on the line: _____

Is the essay organized well? (Beginning, middle, end, and transitions) Yes No

Is the author's voice/personality apparent? Yes No

How many mechanical, grammatical errors did you find?

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Compliment Sandwich:

