

# PERSONAL NARRATIVE ESSAY

We've spent some time reading a variety of nonfiction texts...you've practiced understanding the significance of nonfiction texts...you know what you like to read about, as well as what types of stories are most interesting to you...now it's time to write one of your own!

***Compose a narrative essay in which you tell a story that illustrates some point, truth, or insight about life.***

(click [here](#) for a list of ideas to get you started)

## **Writing a Personal Essay**

Use the texts we've read together in class to help guide your style of writing.

Your first task is to choose an event from your own experience to write about. This creative, nonfiction personal narrative essay can be about anything as long as:

1. It is nonfiction and factually accurate
2. It is told in first-person
3. There is a main idea of the story
4. It is approved by Mrs. Scaggs

*Your personal narrative should be 2-3 pages in length and should be in accordance with the Personal Narrative Rubric. You must remember to include the requirements listed below.*

## **REQUIREMENTS**

- 2-3 pages in length, 12-point Times New Roman font, double spaced, proper MLA heading
- Clever **title**
- Makes use of a solid **attention-getter**
- **Thesis statement** is clearly stated
- Obviously contains a clear **main idea** and all elements of the story relate to this main idea
- Clearly **organized**, containing introductory, body, and conclusion paragraphs that tie the essay together
- Action and details in the story contain vivid **imagery**
- Uses appropriate **verb tense**
- Consistent **point of view**
- Uses **transitions** to improve sentence fluency
- **SHOWS** story, doesn't **TELL** story!

**This assignment is due \_\_\_\_\_**

## Personal Narrative Essay Rubric

	6	5	4	3	2	1
<b>Ideas</b>  ____ / 12	The narrative shares an interesting event. Details bring the essay to life. The main idea of the essay is clear and thoughtful.	The writer shares an interesting event. Specific details help maintain interest. The main idea of the essay is clear.	The writer tells about an interesting event. Details need to show, not tell. The main idea of the essay is clear.	The writer should focus on one event. Some details do not relate to the essay. The main idea of the essay is unclear.	The writer should focus on one event. More details are needed. The main idea of the essay is unclear.	The writer should select an event and provide details. The essay contains no main idea.
<b>Organization</b>  ____ / 12	The structure of the narrative makes it enjoyable and easy to read.	The narrative has a clear beginning, middle, and ending. Transitions are helpful.	For the most part, the narrative is organized. Most of the transitions are helpful.	The order of events must be corrected. More transitions are needed.	The beginning, middle, and ending all run together. The order is unclear.	The narrative must be organized.
<b>Voice</b>  ____ / 12	The writer's voice captures the experience for the reader. Dialogue holds interest.	The writer's voice sounds natural. Dialogue helps hold the reader's interest.	The writer's voice creates interest in the essay, but dialogue needs to sound more natural.	The writer's voice can usually be heard. More dialogue is needed.	The voice is weak. Dialogue is needed.	The writer sounds uninvolved or disinterested in the essay.
<b>Word Choice</b>  ____ / 12	The writer's excellent word choice creates a vivid picture of the event.	Specific nouns, verbs, and modifiers create clear images and feelings.	Some stronger nouns, verbs, and/or modifiers would create a clearer picture.	More specific nouns, verbs, and modifiers would paint a clearer picture of the event.	Better words are needed. Words are overused or too general to paint a clear picture.	The writer has not considered word choice or has used words incorrectly.
<b>Sentence Fluency</b>  ____ / 12	The sentences are skillfully written to hold the reader's interest.	The sentences show variety and are easy to understand.	The sentences are varied but some should flow more smoothly.	A better variety of sentences is needed. Sentences do not flow smoothly.	Many incomplete or short sentences make the writing choppy.	Few sentences are written well. Help is needed.
<b>Conventions</b>  ____ / 5		The narrative has no more than 2 errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation.	The narrative has a few minor errors in punctuation, grammar, or spelling.	The narrative has some errors that may distract the reader.	The narrative has several errors.	Numerous errors make the narrative hard to read and confusing.
<b>Presentation</b>  ____ / 5		Accurately follows all formatting requirements	Accurately follows most formatting requirements	Accurately follows some formatting requirements	Follows some formatting requirements with limited accuracy	Follows few formatting requirements with limited accuracy

**Total \_\_\_\_\_ / 70**