

Narratives Should:

- Create a sense of shared history, linking people together.
- Provide entertainment. Most people enjoy a thrilling movie or an intriguing book.
- They can also help the writer deal with the crisis.
- Provide insight.
- Narratives can help you discover values, explore options, and examine motives.
- Be relevant
- Have some kind of message, meaning—have significance.

Can be about: an experience or event from his or her past
a recent or an ongoing experience or event

More Topic Ideas:

- An accident or positive event that changed your life.
- The birth of a brother, sister or other relative.
- Your first day at High School.
- The decision I regret most.
- My first serious date.
- A significant family event.
- A memorable vacation.
- A historical event that impressed you.
- The day you moved.
- A milestone that seemed bad but turned out to be good.
- Your heroic sports moment.
- The influence of a special person on your behavior
- A prejudice that involved you.
- An Eureka moment: you suddenly understood how something works in life you had been struggling with.
- How you helped someone else and what you learned from her or him, and from the situation.
- Your most frustrating moment, and what you learned from it.
- How you handled an emergency situation.
- A moment when you did something that took a lot of courage.
- A time when you choose to go your own way and did not follow the crowd.

NARRATIVE IDEAS

Ms. Minx

1. Describe a memorable moment in your life (remember small topics make for great narratives).
2. Describe an ordinary event in extraordinary terms.
3. Share a life-changing day or event in your life—with a focus on YOU or your response to the event.
4. Describe your best (or worst) moment at school.
5. Recreate your most vivid childhood memory.
6. Share your funniest, saddest, or most embarrassing experience.
7. Relate the experience of an important change that has taken place in your life.
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Choose your Idea—Make it Specific to your Experience:

(Write it in the space provided)

NARRATIVE WRITING—ENGLISH I
Ms. Minx

Length: 2 pages—3 sides (front back, front)

Format: Introduction, Body, Conclusion

Point Value: **50 points** (Final Paper)

NOTE: If you do not finish story map or outline on day ascribed, take assignment home to finish.

(If you turn in a final copy late, be prepared to lose 10 points per days late)

DUE DATES

Rough Draft: _____

Final Copy: _____

PERSONAL NARRATIVE WRITING

- recounts a true event or series of events
- **interests or entertains** the reader (*classmates are your audience members*).
- depends upon **vivid description** that allows the reader to participate in your experience

YOUR PERSONAL NARRATIVE SHOULD

- have a clear **focus** (an event, a special moment, a specific place or time, etc.)
- have a clear **setting** (time and place).
- **show by experience** (DO NOT GIVE A PLAY-by-PLAY OF EVENTS)
- allow the reader to feel as if he or she is **participating in or observing the experience**
- provide the reader with **specific insight**: who, what, where, when, how, and why
- contain strong **character development** (thoughts, feelings, behavior, actions, etc.)
- contain **vivid imagery**; help the reader see, hear, smell, touch, and taste what you are describing.
- Contain strong **figurative language—similes, metaphors, personification**, etc; avoid cliché expressions (over-used figurative language)
Eg. "Don't judge a book by its cover"

As in all school assignments, **be appropriate**. It is okay to write about something personal, but do not invade your own privacy. If the topic of your writing concerns me, expect a conference with me and/or a referral to the school counselor.

As always, talk to the teacher if you have any questions about the assignment

Name: _____ Block: _____

**NARRATIVE WRITING—CHECKLIST
ENGLISH I**

STUDENT

FORMAT, FOCUS, & PURPOSE

Contains an Introduction, Body, and Conclusion

Focus/Setting is clear

Meets purpose (to interest or entertain)

SEQUENCE & ORGANIZATION

Introduction (gains reader's attention and is well-developed)

Body paragraphs are well-developed and organized effectively

Uses paragraphing effectively

Conclusion (provides effective closure—no new topics are introduced)

Sequence/organization (is appropriate and effective)

CONTENT

Vivid description (shows experience, allows reader to participate, provides insight, etc.)

Characters are fully developed (thoughts, feelings, behavior, actions, etc.)

Imagery is used effectively (see, smell, touch, taste and hear)

Figurative language is used effectively (similes, metaphors, personification, etc.)

At least one simile, metaphor, personification, or hyperbole used

WRITING STYLE & MECHANICS

Spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and usage

Sentence structure, sentence variety/complexity,

WRITING WORKSHOP

COPY MASTER

Personal Narrative**DRAFTING**

Prepare a story map to ensure that your personal narrative includes all important details and events. The map will also help you put events in the proper order.

Directions: Prepare a story map of your narrative using the following graphic organizer.

Characters:

Setting:

Problem:

Lesson or Message for the reader:

Event 1:

Event 2:

Event 3:

Event 4:

Event 5:

Solution or Ending (reiterate the message/lesson):

"A storyteller, like a travel agent, can help gather us up from wherever we are and put us down in another setting."

1. **Simile:** a figure of speech comparing two unlike things that is often introduced by *like* or *as*. (eg. Curley was flopping like a fish on a line)
2. **Metaphor:** a figure of speech in which a word or phrase literally denoting one kind of object or idea is used in place of another to suggest a likeness or analogy between them (as in *drowning in money*).
3. **Personification:** the writer speaks of something nonhuman as if it has human qualities.
4. **Vivid imagery:** words that call forth a response from our senses—sight, smell, touch, hearing, and at times, even taste.
5. **Hyperbole:** a type of figurative language. It is often confused with a simile or a metaphor because it often compares two objects. The difference is a hyperbole is an exaggeration. For example: His feet were as big as a barge. It looks like a simile. It is comparing foot size to the size of a barge.

My Brother's Wedding

One day this past summer I was in my brothers wedding. It was a small wedding because it was a little church in our town, so they couldn't invite many people. On Saturday morning, I woke up early and ate breakfast as usual. My mom didn't like the way I combed my hair over, and she kept trying to change it. I had to get dressed in my tux after we got to the church.

Listening to the music in the church made me start to get a little nervous, but I'll bet the groom was even worse. The bride looked pretty. My brother Jon looked pretty nervous too when she came down the isle he was looking at the minister and then at the bride the whole time. My mom cried the most, because Jon is the oldest she's going to miss him when he moves out.

Finally we were at the reception, my favorite part of a wedding. Because I like to eat. I also like dancing. There wasn't many girls their around my age, so I ended up dancing just one slow dance with my new sister-in-law, the bride. I danced all the fast songs. The DJ was great. Before I knew it, they were getting ready to throw the garter. I tried to catch it, but this other groomsman got in front of me and won. Then they left on their honeymoon, I think they went to a resort in Florida somewhere. The wedding cake ran out otherwise the day was great. I'll always remember being in the wedding.

Knowledge Rating Chart

<u>Words</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Have Seen</u>	<u>Have Not Seen</u>
Simile			
Metaphor			
Personification			
Hyperbole			

Name: _____

Block: _____

Personal Narrative Outline

I. Introductory Paragraph

A. Hook the reader with something exciting or interesting about your story and message/lesson

1. _____

B. State the topic of your story and the message/lesson (importance of the story) you want the reader to take away from it in a clearly worded thesis statement

1. _____

Name: _____

Block: _____

3. Event 3

a) _____

(1) Important Details:

4. Event 4

a) _____

(1) Important Details:

5. Event 5

a) _____

(1) Important Details:

Holistic Scoring Guide

4

The paper has an effective beginning, middle, and end and uses paragraphing effectively. It contains a strong controlling idea, progresses in a logical order and uses effective cohesive devices (such as transitions, repetition, parallel structure) between and within paragraphs. It clearly addresses the topic and provides convincing elaboration through specific and relevant details, reasons, and examples. It uses precise and vivid language, contains sentences that are clear and varied in structure and effectively uses writing techniques (such as imagery, humor, point of view, voice). It shows complexity, freshness of thought, and individual perspective and clearly shows an awareness of audience and purpose. It contains few errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling.

Holistic Scoring Guide

3

The paper has a clear beginning, middle, and end and uses paragraphing appropriately. It contains a controlling idea, generally progresses in a logical order and contains cohesive devices between and within paragraphs. It addresses the topic using relevant details, reasons and examples. It uses precise language, contains sentences that are clear and show some variety in structure, and uses writing techniques. It shows some complexity, freshness of thought, and/or individual perspective and an awareness of audience and purpose. It may contain errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling that are not distracting to the reader.

Holistic Scoring Guide

2

The paper has evidence of a beginning, middle, and end and shows evidence of paragraphing. It may contain a sense of direction but may lack focus, not progress in a logical order, and may not use cohesive devices. It addresses the topic but relies on generalities (lists) rather than specifics (development). It may use imprecise language and contain sentences that are generally clear but may lack variety and complexity. It attempts to use some writing techniques, but may lack complexity, freshness of thought, and/or individual perspective. It shows some awareness of audience and purpose, but contains errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling that may be distracting to the reader.

Holistic Scoring Guide

1

The paper may lack evidence of a beginning, middle, and/or end and of paragraphing. It is difficult to follow, as it lacks focus, cohesion, does not progress in a logical order and may digress to unrelated topics. It may address the topic but lacks details. The paper uses imprecise language, contains sentences that lack variety and clarity, and shows little or no evidence of writing techniques. It lacks complexity, freshness of thought, and individual perspectives, along with little or no awareness of audience or purpose. The paper contains repeated error in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling that are distracting to the reader.