

APSU Writing Center

Personal Narrative

Personal Narrative

- A **personal narrative** is a story that reflects on real-life events that had a significant impact on the writer. It is often told from the first-person perspective and aims to highlight a transformative experience. A successful personal narrative generally involves the writer's life-changing memory, their struggles with it, and the lesson learned as a result.

Narrative Storytelling

- Use the first-person point of view (I, me, my).
- Focus on personal experiences (challenges, triumphs, hopes).
- Adhere to word count and prompts provided by your instructor.
- Include vivid details to engage your reader (sight, sound, smell, touch, taste).

Sample Outline:

- **Introduction**
 - Set the scene for your story.
 - Provide general background about other characters or feelings you had.
 - Keep initial details broad to build interest.
- **The Story**
 - Dive into the specifics, giving enough detail to engage your audience.
 - Connect emotionally with your readers by showing, not just telling.
- **Reflection and Analysis**
 - Reflect on what you learned from the experience.
 - Explain how it changed you or shaped your perspective.
- **Conclusion**
 - Wrap up with the significance of the event.
 - Discuss why this memory matters or what it taught you.

Questions to Answer

- **Who:**
 - Who are the key characters in your narrative? Who influenced or impacted the central character's life?
- **What:**
 - What happened in the narrative? What is the central event or turning point? What is the overall theme or message?
- **When:**
 - When did the events take place? When did you fully come to terms with the conflict or lesson?
- **Where:**
 - Where did the events unfold? Where does the story reach its climax or turning point? Where does the significance of the story extend beyond the physical setting?
- **Why:**
 - Why did these events happen? Why are you sharing this narrative? Why is this experience significant to you or others?



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Personal Narrative Outline

Title:

Due Date:

Course:

Instructor:

- **Introduction:** (Introduce topic, provide background, state thesis)

- **Paragraph 1:** (Describe situation leading to the event, provide key details such as location, people, and emotions, set the scene)

- **Paragraph 2:** (Describe the event itself, include sensory details, highlight the most important moment)

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- **Paragraph 3:** (Reflect on your feelings, explain how they evolved, connect to larger life lessons)

- **Conclusion:** (Reflect on what you've learned, tie back to thesis, end with a final thought or reflection)



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References

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