

NARRATIVE ESSAY WRITING

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A close-up, shallow depth-of-field photograph of a desk. In the foreground, an open notebook with lined pages is visible, with a black pen resting on it. The notebook's right page shows a list of numbers: 08.00, 02.00, 10.00, 11.00, 12.00, 13.00, 14.00, 15.00, 16.00, 17.00, 18.00, 19.00, 20.00. In the background, a laptop is partially visible, and a smartphone lies on the desk to the right. The overall lighting is soft and natural, creating a focused and professional atmosphere.

THE NARRATIVE ESSAY

The Writing Process



IT DIFFERS FROM A
CONVENTIONAL STORY!

Remember that factor

THE NARRATIVE ESSAY

In Process

What is a Narrative Essay?

- A narrative is a story

- A narrative essay is a story that has a specific point

- A narrative essay strives to teach a lesson or;

- A narrative essay strives to make a specific point

- A narrative essay is not a diary entry –

The story is linked to the purpose of the essay

The Key Aspects to Writing the Essay

THE NARRATIVE ESSAY



Key aspects to consider when writing a Narrative Essay?

Often written in 1st person – I or we – because it is based on a personal story

Can also be written in 3rd person

Can never be written in 2nd person

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

Is developed in chronological order

Has verbs that help paint a picture and draw in the reader



THE NARRATIVE ESSAY

The Key Elements to Writing a
Narrative Essay

What are the key elements of a Narrative Essay?

- Since this is a story, the narrative essay needs everything a story needs (these are known as the story elements):
- Has a **plot**
- Has **characters**
- Has a **problem**
- Has a **climax**
- Often **uses dialogue**

When Will You Use it in Life?

THE NARRATIVE ESSAY

When Will I Use Narrative Essays?

A narrative essay tells a simple story

A narrative essay is not a deeply thought out synthesis.

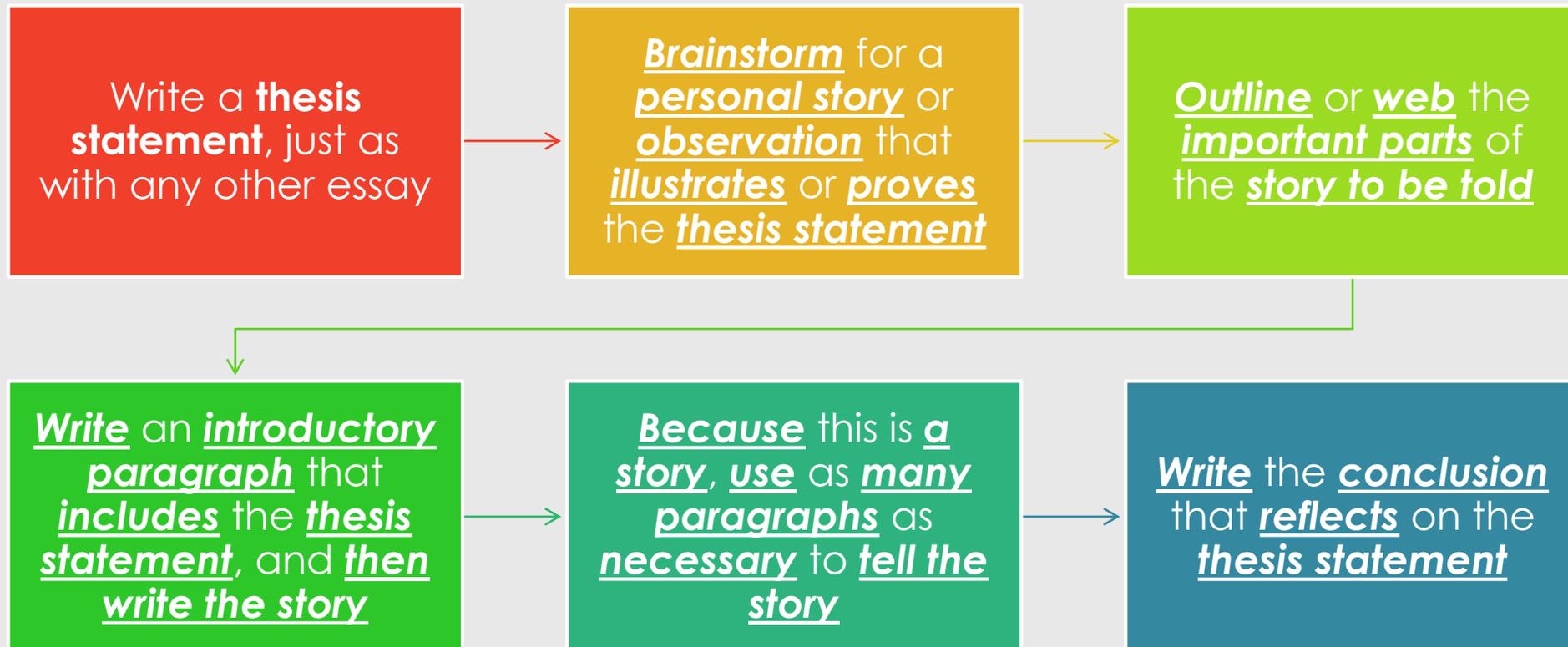
so this essay form should be used sparingly.

unless it is specifically assigned

THE NARRATIVE ESSAY

Planning Everything Out- “A Start to Finish Scenario”

Planning the Narrative Essay



THE NARRATIVE ESSAY

Starting with the Thesis Statement

Start With a Thesis Statement



THE THESIS WILL DEPEND UPON THE STORY TO BE PROVEN.



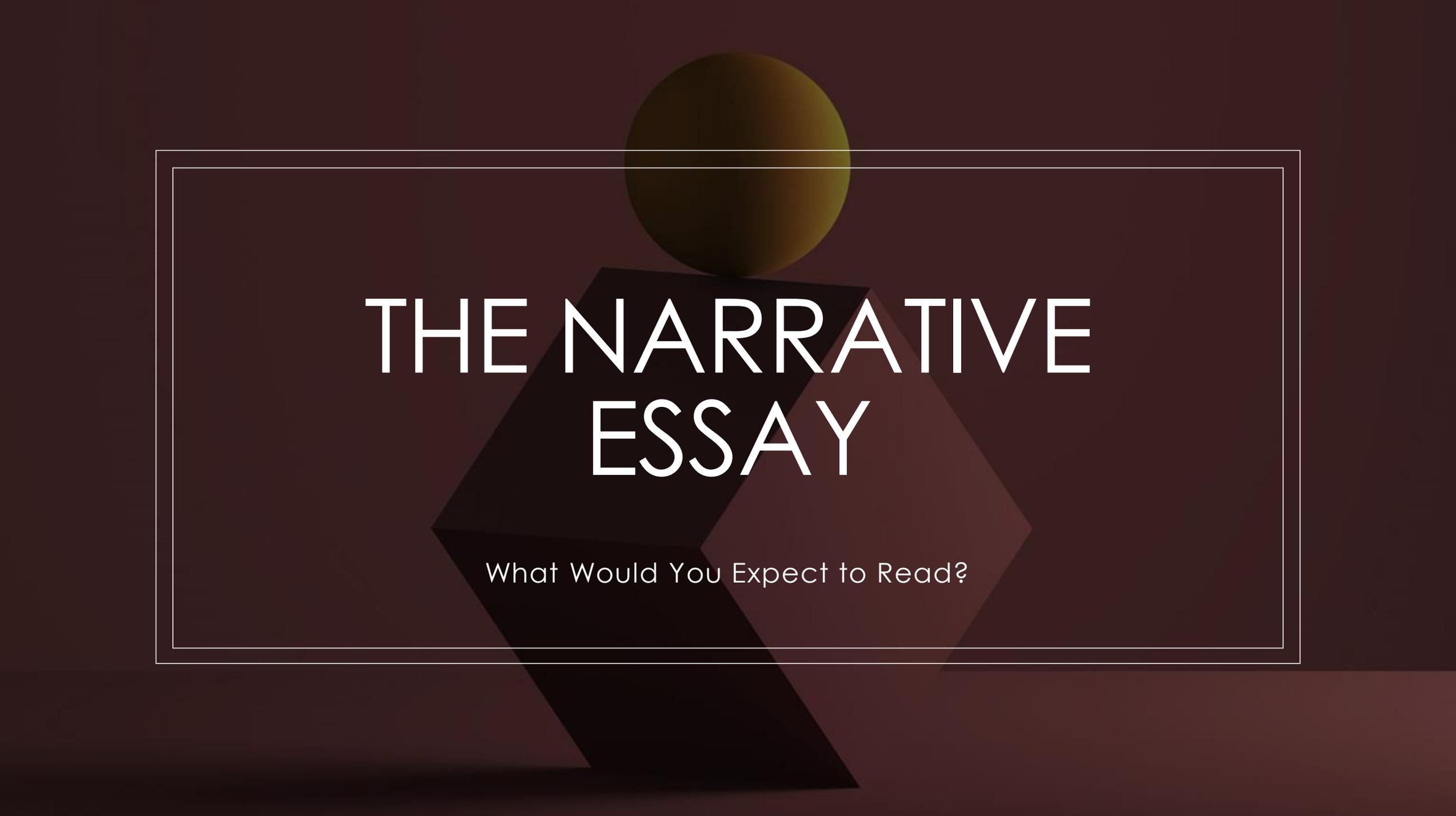
THE THESIS CAN BE SOMETHING GENERAL IN THE CASE OF A NARRATIVE ESSAY.



FOR EXAMPLE, YOU MAY WRITE,



"OFTENTIMES PEOPLE DO NOT FOLLOW SIMPLE DIRECTIONS. HOWEVER, THESE CAMPERS LEARNED JUST HOW IMPORTANT FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS CAN BE."



THE NARRATIVE ESSAY

What Would You Expect to Read?

What Would You Expect From This Thesis?



As the reader, you will expect to learn why following directions is important.



As the reader, you will expect to read a story about camping.



As the reader, you will expect there to be a twist in the action.



THE NARRATIVE ESSAY

Brainstorming

Why is Brainstorming so essential for the Narrative Essay? (1)

- **Invention Strategies**

- Invention strategies will be **different** for a **narrative essay** than for a **persuasive essay**. **Narratives** will **draw** more on **personal experience**, so for narrative essays, we'll do what's called **memory mining**. Memory mining is simply brainstorming to uncover memories of people, places, events, and experiences. To simplify, we'll break our memories down into categories. Try to list at least **3 memories** for each category.

- **Memories of people**

- Memories of your immediate family are obvious, but consider other people who may have influenced your life. Did you have a favorite teacher or coach? Did you have a first boss who was a mentor? Did you meet someone who left a profound effect on your life? List the person and a brief note on why they come to mind. Below are some examples that could become an intriguing story:

- My high school history teacher taught me the importance of learning from our past
- My grandmother's love of baking
- The homeless man I passed each day on the way to the bus stop

Why is Brainstorming so essential for the Narrative Essay? (2)

- **Memories of times and places**

- If I were to ask you to recall a place from your youth, I bet it would be easy. Places are full of memories of sights, sounds, smells – the making of a great narrative essay. Places can be inside home or outside in the city or country. A place could be a garden or a doctor's office. Think of "time" in terms of era: junior high science lab; the summer you broke both your legs and spent the time in your bed; the maple tree where you kissed your first boyfriend over winter break. Work past the obvious and list as many times and places as you can.
 - Early autumn in the Tennessee mountains
 - The first day of deer hunting season
 - Your Quinceañera

Why is Brainstorming so essential for the Narrative Essay? (3)

- **Memories of events**

- Often when we think of “events,” we immediately think big – graduation, wedding, birth, death – but an event doesn’t necessarily have to be a big occasion. An event could be your last day of high school, saying goodbye to your favorite teacher. It could be a tornado drill at school when you got to snuggle close to the girl/boy of your dreams. It could be the first time you drove a car and went the wrong way down a one-way street (was I the only one who did that?). Think outside the box.

- Getting a black belt in karate

- The first – and last – time you sat on Santa’s lap

- Parents’ silver wedding anniversary

- **Memories of happy experiences**

- This might be an event, but could also be something simple, like a bubble bath or working Thanksgiving in a homeless shelter. Think small and large when brainstorming happy experiences.

- Catching the winning touchdown pass

- Opening the letter of acceptance from the journal where you submitted a poem

- Senior prom

Why is Brainstorming so essential for the Narrative Essay? (4)

- **Memories of unhappy experiences**

- We've all had unhappy experiences, but trying to determine which ones might make a good essay can be challenging. Think in terms of how you will tell the story of your unhappy experience before you commit it to paper. A break-up or death may come to mind first, but take some time to consider if there is a *story* in the experience that others can derive meaning from.

- Being pulled over by the police

- Wrecking my father's beloved Camero

- Being ejected from the final game and disappointing my teammates

- **Memories of accomplishments**

- Accomplishments can be big or small. The emotions we might feel after accomplishing something might range from elation to sadness.

- Winning an award

- Completing the marathon

- Hitting weight loss goal

Why is Brainstorming so essential for the Narrative Essay? (5

- **Supporting Ideas: Testing Your Topic**

- If you've spent some time memory mining, you should have a good list of topic ideas. Now you can begin to brainstorm supporting ideas. Pick one of your favorite topics you've uncovered, and list related memories as they come to mind.
- For example, one student might choose her grandmother's love a baking. Here is a list of memories surrounding that topic:

Why is Brainstorming so essential for the Narrative Essay? (6)

*Grandma baked iced sugar cookies
every Christmas
specialty was pecan pie
always wore her blue floral apron
flour in hair
let me lick bowl
types of cookies
favorite Betty Crocker cookbook
colored frosting and sprinkles
kitchen smelled good
singing along to Elvis music*

*Dad only ate unfrosted cookies
I learned how to use mixer
she let me add ingredients
learned to read recipes
I was glad sister didn't like to help
made extra frosting so I could eat it
wrapped cookies in box and gave as
gifts
couldn't bake as she got older
I baked for her and she helped
decorate*

Why is Brainstorming so essential for the Narrative Essay? (7)

- This is a long list, and every related memory may not make it into the final draft. If you have too much material for your essay, decide what the main ideas you want to write about are.
- In our narrative, we want to show Grandma's love of baking and how she passed it on, so the details of Grandma's actions and what the writer learned from Grandma are important. Other details, such as the writer's feelings about her sister, her Dad's favorite cookies, or which cookbook Grandma used, may be less important and can be omitted. Once you decide what the story is you want to tell, you'll begin to see what the important memories are, the focus will gradually become clearer, and the story will start to spring from the memories.

The background is a complex, abstract composition of overlapping, organic shapes in various colors including shades of blue, green, brown, orange, and grey. Some shapes contain smaller, white, dotted patterns, while others have solid colors or cutouts. The overall effect is a textured, layered visual field.

THE NARRATIVE ESSAY

The Parts and Layout of the
Narrative Essay

The Structure and Layout of the Narrative Essay

Title

Introduction

Beginning of the story

Middle Events

End of the Story

Conclusion

THE NARRATIVE ESSAY



The Outline and Process

Making a Structure and Outlining

- Divide your plot into three parts: a setup, the main part and a climax, and a thrilling conclusion. In the introduction, you should hook a reader and make them read the rest of your essay. Allocate the major points of the essay and describe each of them briefly in the body and end up your story with an unpredictable twist and a delightful punch line. In its turn, outlining helps you find the best details of the disclosed issues in the narrative essay.

Providing Information in First-Person

- The narrative is very personal, so you should underline the significance of the ongoing events for your identity. That is why it is common to use “I” statements without switching a perspective in favor of another person.

Describing the Characters and Places

- Even though it's not a descriptive essay, try to adorn your story with vivid details of crucial objects mentioned in the plot. Especially, that goes for people who affected the outcome of the whole case; their personalities should be disclosed as comprehensive as possible.
- Mention places serving as a location of where an action is held because it reflects the picture's ambience. Background information which may change the reader's attitude to characters or even to the meaning of your idea has to be also provided.

Adding a Little Spice

- What a narrative without a zest! Dilute your smooth passages with a detail that will turn everything around. It may be antagonist character who is eagerly interfering with your purposes, an unpredictable twist and embarrassing ending or funny jokes and coincidences to break your audience out laughing.

The background of the slide is a complex, abstract geometric pattern composed of numerous overlapping triangles. The color palette is a range of blues and teals, from deep, dark navy blues to bright, light cyan and seafoam greens. The triangles vary in size and orientation, creating a dynamic, crystalline texture that resembles a low-poly mesh or a stylized, faceted surface.

THE NARRATIVE ESSAY

Editing and Proof-Reading

Editing

- After crafting the first draft, revise it thoroughly. You will definitely find one, two or a few rough spots while looking through your essay. Make sure you didn't miss any important points.
- Tips for the successful editing:
- Don't start to search for mistakes right after finishing the essay. Have a rest and only then take a fresh look at it;
- Transform big and complicated sentences into simple ones to make them compelling;
- Avoid use of terms of many meanings;
- Find all repeats of ideas or arguments and delete them;
- Verify all citations and formatting in general with a guide;
- Paraphrase where it is hard to grasp the sense;
- Reconsider the structure of the essay.

Proofreading

- Many students deem that subtitles 3 and 4 in this guide are the same things. But it is not really so: when editing is all about content, style, and paragraph structure, proofreading is performed to detect misspellings and grammar errors. Also, it is the final phase of the writing.
- What Should I Do During This Process?
- Check grammar yourself or use some applications such as Grammarly.com or other services from Infographics below, but do not rely on them heavily;
- Remove double spacing;
- Replace misspellings with correct words.



NARRATIVE ESSAY

A Detailed Example

Example

Introduction

The “Hook” Start your paper with a statement about your story that catches the reader’s attention, for example: a relevant quotation, question, fact, or definition.

Set the Scene Provide the information the reader will need to understand the story: Who are the major characters? When and where is it taking place? Is it a story about something that happened to you, the writer, or is it fiction?

Thesis Statement The thesis of a narrative essay plays a slightly different role than that of an argument or expository essay. A narrative thesis can begin the events of the story: *“It was sunny and warm out when I started down the path”*; offer a moral or lesson learned: *“I’ll never hike alone again”*; or identify a theme that connects the story to a universal experience: *“Journeys bring both joy and hardship.”*

Example

Body Paragraph

“Show, Don’t Tell” Good story telling includes details and descriptions that help the reader understand what the writer experienced. Think about using all five senses—not just the sense of sight—to add details about what you heard, saw, and felt during the event. For example, “*My heart jumped as the dark shape of the brown grizzly lurched toward me out of the woods*” provides more information about what the writer saw and felt than, “*I saw a bear when I was hiking*”.

Supporting Evidence In a personal narrative, your experience acts as the evidence that proves your thesis. The events of the story should demonstrate the lesson learned, or the significance of the event to you.

Passage of Time Writing about the events of your experience using time chronologically, from beginning to end, is the most common and clear way to tell a story. Whether you choose to write chronologically or not, use transition words to clearly indicate to the reader what happened first, next, and last. Some time transition words are *next, finally, during, after, when, and later*.

Transitions In a narrative essay, a new paragraph marks a change in the action of a story, or a move from action to reflection. Paragraphs should connect to one another. For example, the end of one paragraph might be: “*I turned and ran, hoping the bear hadn’t noticed me””, and the start of the next might be: “*There are many strategies for surviving an encounter with a bear; ‘turn and run’ is not one of them.”* The repetition of words connects the paragraphs. (What does the change in verb tense indicate?)**

Example

Conclusion

The Moral of the Story The conclusion of a narrative include the closing action of the event, but also should include some reflection or analysis of the significance of the event to the writer. What lesson did you learn? How has what happened to you affected your life now?



THE NARRATIVE ESSAY

The Writing Template

Writing Template

Introduction:

Begin your paper with a “**hook**” that catches the reader’s attention and **set the scene**. Where is the event set? What time of year? How old were you when this happened?

State your **thesis**: what you learned, or how the event is significant to you.

Writing Template

Body paragraphs: *write three significant moments from the beginning, middle, and end of the event.*

Para. 1: Beginning Action	Topic sentence: Detail 1. Detail 2. Detail 3.	Note: Don't forget to "Show, Don't Tell": List sounds, smells, sights, tastes, and textures that you remember. Your experience is your "evidence". Use transition words to mark the passage of time.
Para. 2: Middle Action	Topic sentence: Detail 1. Detail 2. Detail 3.	
Para 3: End Action	Topic sentence: Detail 1. Detail 2. Detail 3.	

Writing Template

Conclusion:

Analyze and reflect on the action of the story, including how the events are significant to you.

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Sources

- Slideshare
- [Writing center underground](#)
- [Fast Essay](#)
- [Sample Templates](#)