Personal Narrative

Choose a story from your life that conveys a message. Write a story about the experience that shows the significance of that message.

Keep in mind that a well-told story creates meaning by introducing and resolving a conflict. It also helps readers “see” the events through powerful characterization and descriptions.

Always keep in mind your purpose for telling the story and let this purpose guide how you tell it. Emphasize the details that will highlight your message.

This story should be 2–3 pages long (double-spaced). That means you will have time to cover a meaningful experience in lively detail. It will not give you time to cover a whole series of events in a way that would do them justice.

Narrative Portfolio

As you work on this paper, we will apply the steps of the writing process:

Pre-writing, Organization, Writing, Evaluation, and Revision = POWER

Your narrative portfolio will document your progress through the writing process. It should include these items:

1. The Story Plan & Purpose worksheet. (May 1–2)
2. A storyboard for your paper. (May 3–4)
3. The first draft of your paper. (May 5–8)
4. Revisions and reviewed drafts of your paper. (May 9–12)
5. The final draft of your paper (see assignment above).
6. A reflective letter. (We will complete this in class on May 15 or 16.)

+ Any other notes or pre-writing materials you want to submit to show me your work on this paper.

Due: Monday, May 15 (A day)

Tuesday, May 16 (B day)

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| Category | Superior: 20-19 | Good: 18-16 | Developing: 15-14 | Not Yet: 13-10 |
| Purpose | The story powerfully communicates a central message, clearly showing its impact and significance. | The story communicates a central message. | The story hints at a message, but it does not consistently guide how the story is told. | The story does not meet the requirements of the assignment. |
| Structure | The story has a meaningful plot structure that skillfully unfolds through the introduction and resolution of a conflict. | The story has a plot that introduces and resolves a clear conflict. | The story has a basic plot, but a central conflict isn’t well-developed or clearly resolved. | The story’s structure is confusing or directionless. |
| Development | The important attributes of characters are shown through their actions and words. Readers can vividly experience the setting through rich sensory details that pull them in and create a mood appropriate to the message. | Characterization is shown through actions and words. Readers can experience the setting through sensory details. | Basic characterization is accomplished mostly through telling rather than showing. Readers have an idea of where the story is set but are really shown it. | Consistent characterization is lacking. The setting is indeterminate. |
| Presentation | Language use is error-free and demonstrates control and sophistication in creating and maintaining an appropriate, consistent, meaningful voice. | Language use in the story is generally smooth and free of grammar or convention errors. | The story is adequately presented with some minor errors or distractions in language use. | Erratic or error-ridden language distracts from the story. |
| Process | The portfolio contains all required parts and shows strong evidence of meaningful progression through the writing process. | The portfolio contains all the required parts. | The portfolio is mostly complete, but a few components are missing or underdeveloped. | The portfolio is very thin or missing altogether. |