Personal Narrative

*My Ántonia* is a novel which depicts the influence one character has over the life of another. It also shows the power of stories in our lives.

For your next paper, you will tell a story about an influential person from your own life. Choose a person who has had significant influence over you. Next choose an experience that you feel shows the power of this influence. Write a story about your experience that shows the impact and significance of the other person on your life. Communicate through narrative the universal message that this experience shows.

As you write your narrative, remember that a well-told story develops meaning by introducing and resolving some tension or conflict. It also helps readers “see” events through good characterization and description of settings. Pick the details that will highlight the importance of your message for others. Always keep in mind your purpose for telling your story and let this purpose guide you in how you tell the story.

This story should be about 3 pages long, double-spaced. That means you will have time to cover a single 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 five items:

1. The Purpose for Writing planning worksheet.
2. The storyboard organization sheet.
3. Preliminary “quick write” drafts of your paper.
4. A peer-reviewed full draft of your paper.
5. The final draft of your paper.
6. A reflective letter.

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

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Category | Superior: 20-19 | Good: 18-16 | Developing: 15-14 | Not Yet: 13-10 |
| Purpose | The story powerfully communicates a central message about a person’s influence, clearly showing the impact and significance. | The story communicates a central message about a person’s influence. | 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 narrative plot structure that skillfully unfolds a lesson learned through the introduction and resolution of a conflict. | The story introduces and resolves a clear conflict. | The story has a basic plot structure, 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 not 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. |