

## Personal Narrative Assignment

A personal narrative (also known as an Autobiographical Incident) is an essay about a specific occurrence in a writer's life. The story takes place not over an extended period of time, but within a day or two, perhaps in minutes or within a few hours. It includes **sensory details, a clear sequence of events, dialogue**, and **a lesson or message at the conclusion of the story**.

Over the next few weeks, you will complete a series of steps in which you will craft a Personal Narrative essay.

Your Personal Narrative must:

- Be focused on a single incident within a limited time frame
- Feature descriptive writing with sensory details
- Be written using first person narration with dialogue
- Include a lesson learned or a message to the reader in the story's resolution\
- Include all "Write like a Pro" techniques discussed in class

The typed, double-spaced final draft, which should be between 1-2 pages, is due on:

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### TOPIC SUGGESTIONS

- Recall a time in your life when you did something that you knew was wrong. You may remember a time when you knowingly teased another person, a time when you cheated on a test, or a time when you lied to a parent/guardian. Write your essay about the incident. Include the kinds of details that will help your readers see the situation, the characters, and what happened. They will also want to know why you acted as you did, and how you feel about the incident now.
- Recall an incident in which you experienced an important change. The change might involve geographic location, family situation, physical condition, or personal life. Write about that incident. Include details that will help your readers visualize the situation to see who was involved and what happened.
- Recall an incident in which you became more aware of another's feelings. The other being might be a person your own age, an adult, or even an animal. Explain the incident in detail so that the reader can picture what happened. Include the kinds of details that will help your readers visualize the situation and see what happened and who was involved.
- Recall a time when you realized a particular person was (or was not) a true friend or an important person in your life. Focus on the central moment when you discovered the true nature of this person. Include details that will help your reader visualize the situation and see what happened and who was involved.
- Recall an incident that you felt was either lucky or unlucky. Include the kinds of details that will help your readers see the situation, the characters, and what happened.