

NARRATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

When you write a narrative essay, you are telling a story. Narrative essays are told from a defined point of view, often the author's, so there is feeling as well as specific and often sensory details provided to get the reader involved in the elements and sequence of the story. The verbs are vivid and precise. They are active and not passive. (use can I ? verbs) The narrative essay makes a point, and that point is often defined in the opening sentence, but can also be found as the last sentence in the opening paragraph. (For test taking purposes, it can be wise to put it first so that the person grading does not miss it.

Since a narrative relies on personal experiences, it often is in the form of a story. When the writer uses this technique, he or she must be sure to include all the conventions of storytelling: plot, (exposition), PROBLEM, character, internal and external conflicts, climax, and resolution. It is usually filled with details that are carefully selected to explain, support, or embellish the story. All of the details relate to the main point the writer is attempting to make. (Webbed writing/ not linear)

Writing Prompt - Personal Narrative (a true narrative)

Three Wishes

All of us have probably heard the story about the Genie in the bottle that would grant the person who opened it three wishes. We have all probably wished, at some time in our lives, that we would come across such a bottle and be granted three wishes of our own choice.

Assume that you have found such a bottle and the Genie will grant you three wishes. There is one catch to this Genie. He will not grant wishes that are destructive or hurtful to you or to others.

Write a five-paragraph essay and tell us what those three wishes would be and the effects that they would have on your life or the lives of others who would be involved or named in the wishes. Be specific.

Writing Prompt Personal Narrative (with a splash of persuasion)

Turn Off the TV

Let us assume that a noted educator has made the rounds of the talk shows and has made an effective point that students who spend more than an hour a day are most often the students who do not do as well in the classroom. The person has suggested that parents, school organization, and newspapers band together to promote a TV free week. Your School PTA has decided that they will join the campaign to turn off the TV. They mailed an effective plea to each of the parents of students in the school to sign a pledge and have the whole family join the TV free week on the second week of next month.

Students have been asked to write a five-paragraph essay about whether they agree with the proposal or not. You are to write an essay about your beliefs about the subject. Be sure to state your side and give reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Writing Prompt - Personal Narrative (with a splash of expository explaining the process)

Favorite Subject in School

Everyone has a favorite subject in school. We may have it for many reasons. Perhaps no other student in the class enjoys it as much as you. But it is a favorite.

Tell us why you have this subject as a favorite, some of the things you have learned, and some of the assignments or activities which you have enjoyed. Do this in a five paragraph essay.

Writing Prompt - Personal Narrative (with a splash of exposition explaining with examples)

My Life as an Ancient Egyptian

Think of everything that you know about people living at that time. Then imagine yourself as living and performing one of the following roles: a slave building the pyramid, a farmer, or a priest.

Tell the reader why that person is important to society and how that person lives. Be sure to use specifics and not just generalizations. Do this in a five paragraph essay.

Writing Prompt - Personal Narrative (a true narrative)

Antalexander the Great

Imagine that you are the official historical recorder of the Alexander the Great of the ant world. It is your job to share with the world the greatest of the episodes in the life of the great conqueror.

Imagine an episode or incident and explain the specifics of it that put Antalexander in the best possible light. Be sure to include details so that the reader can appreciate the intellectual as well as the heroic side of the incident(s).

Do this in a five paragraph essay.

This will graded on the NJASK rubric

Make sure to use your proofreading marks

Add tons of figurative language

You will only have 45 minutes to complete this writing :)

Create a story-line triangle organizer to plan your writing