

APSU Writing Center

Personal Narrative

Personal Narrative

- A **personal narrative** is a story told by the writer that focuses on real-life events that had a significant impact.
- It offers a way for the writer to tell their story through the first-person point of view in a reflective way.
- A formula consisting of the writer's life-changing memory plus their struggle with that memory that leads to a lesson learned.

Narrative Storytelling

- Utilize a first-person point of view
- Pertain to a personal story (about an experience, challenge, hope, etc.)
- Adhere to word counts and prompts provided by the instructor
- Add vivid details

- **Sample Outline:**
 - Introduction - set the scene for your story, keep details general, and provide general background about other characters or feelings you had
 - The Story - connect with your audience by going into detail
 - Reflection and Analysis - talk about what you learned, and how it helped you
 - Conclusion - Why was this even significant?

- **Questions to Answer**
 - **Who:**
 - Who are the central characters or individuals in your narrative? Who influenced or impacted the central character's life?
 - **What:**
 - What happened in your narrative? What events, actions, or experiences are you sharing? What is the central theme, purpose, or message of your narrative?
 - **When:**
 - When did the events in your narrative take place? When did you come to terms with the conflict?
 - **Where:**
 - Where did the events unfold? Where does the story climax or reach a turning point? Where does the story's significance extend beyond the physical setting?
 - **Why:**
 - Why did the events occur, or why are you sharing this narrative? Why do the events impact you or the characters involved? Why does this narrative convey a particular message or lesson?

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References

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