

Personal Narrative Writing Assignment

A **personal narrative** is a true story about just one very important incident in a person's life. This kind of writing is also referred to as a **memoir**. It is not to be confused with an **autobiography**, a much longer account of a person's entire life story.



A personal narrative is written in the first person, using the pronouns **I** or **me**. Like a story, it has a clear structure – a beginning, middle, and an end. But even though it shares personal information, it is not a personal narrative unless it shares a message or a lesson learned from the experience.

When writing your memoir, remember the following:

- Select an event that you could describe in a short personal narrative (minimum of five paragraphs long).
- Show, don't tell. Use your five senses to describe the event using descriptive language instead of simply telling the reader what happened.
- Use your graphic organizer to help you plan your memoir. You can always go back and change your plan later if you need to.
- Write your draft. Make your writing as clear as possible, but don't worry too much about correct spelling, punctuation, or grammar at this stage.
- Revise your draft. Re-read your story to check for proper sentences and appropriate word choice, spelling, grammar, etc.
- Edit your piece of writing by checking for last minute mistakes. Read it aloud to ensure that it has good flow. Re-write a good copy to be passed in.
- **Good copy must be double spaced and in blue or black ink. If typing, please use 1.5 spacing. Calibri, arial, or Times New Roman font are accepted, but no bigger than size 14. MLA format must be used. No title pages please.**