

Narrative Essay Assignment

You will write a five paragraph narrative essay on one of the topics listed below. A narrative essay is an essay in which the author tells a story. They are non-fictional and usually deal with the author's personal development. Unlike other forms of writing, using the first person is acceptable in narrative essays.

Topic Choices:

1. Write about a recent conflict you faced that was a result of differing perspectives.
2. Tell a story about a time when perspective impacted your life.
3. Share a story that demonstrates a time when you gained a new perspective or your perspective changed.
4. Write about a time when you were able to help someone see a different perspective.

Format:

Times New Roman (if typed), 12pt font and double spaced. Name and class period in top corner. When finished, please share with me using a Google Doc or email your essay to my Google account at: slucyk@mmalions.org.

Important Dates:

February 7th and 8th: we discuss the assignment, brainstorm, and prewrite using graphic organizers. We will also talk about show-not-tell language and using dialogue to advance a story or plot, including how to punctuate dialogue when you write it. If you are absent, you will need to make up this assignment.

February 9th and 10th: we will use the COW to write our essays. Your essay will be *due at the end of class*. If you are absent, you will need to make up this assignment.

February 13th and 14th: we will discuss editing and do peer editing in class. You will then take the feedback you receive from me and your peers and either make the edits or rewrite your essay at home, in Advisory, or in the mini-computer lab. Your edited and revised essay will be *due to me by 4pm on February 17th*. That gives you 3-4 days to make your edits and revise your essay, but *there will be no in-class time* to incorporate your edits or make revisions.

Your Grade:

You will receive three grades for this assignment because I want you to think of writing an essay as a multi-step process. First you brainstorm, use a graphic organizer, and create an outline or a draft. Then you write your essay. Finally, you revise or rewrite your essay. You will have three classes to work through the process, and I plan to support you every step of the way.

Your grades will reflect assessment on the following standards:

W5 (Your Pre-writing/graphic organizer): “With some guidance and support, I can develop and strengthen writing as needed **by planning**, revising, editing, and rewriting.”

Please note how I will be assessing your proficiency:

- 95%: Your prewriting includes an outline or a graphic organizer filled with your ideas. You also submit a *rough* draft of your essay. (The draft can be short and messy- that’s ok! That’s what a draft is.)
- 85%: Your prewriting includes an outline or a graphic organizer filled with your ideas.
- 75%: Your prewriting amounts to a few notes or bullet points.

W3 (Your Completed Essay): “I can write narratives to tell the story of real or imagined experiences or events.”

Please note how I will be assessing your proficiency:

- 95%: Your essay includes an introductory hook, dialogue, and show-not-tell language.
- 85%: Your essay includes two of the three elements listed above.
- 75%: Your essay includes one of the three elements listed above.

L2 (Your Revised Essay): “I can demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.”

Please note how I will be assessing your proficiency:

- 95%: Your essay demonstrates your *mastery* of appropriate capitalization, punctuation and basic comma rules. There are no errors in your essay after the editing process.
- 85%: Your essay shows you’re *approaching* mastery of capitalization, punctuation and basic comma rules. There are only 1- 3 errors in your essay after the editing process.
- 75%: Your essay shows you are *working on* capitalization, punctuation and basic comma rules. There are more than 3 errors in your essay after the editing process.

If you have questions about this assignment or any of the steps, please reach out for help. I am always available after school on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. You can also come to my class for Advisory on travel Thursday. If these times do not work out, I’m happy to meet you at an alternate, pre-arranged time.

Helpful Tips for Writing Your Narrative:

1. Focus on only one event. This helps ensure your narrative isn’t too broad or long.
2. Start with a hook to grab your reader’s attention. (Question, description, dialogue, etc.)
3. Include dialogue to make your story interesting.
4. Use show-not-tell language to make your narrative come alive.
5. Wrap your story around a central theme or idea, which will probably be the topic of perspective. (This is stated at the beginning of this instruction page)