



Prep Cares Remembering Our Heroes Experiencing 9/11 Essay Contest

Personal Narrative

A **Personal Narrative** is a form of writing in which the writer relates an event, incident, or experience in his or her own life. The events of a personal narrative are most often presented in chronological order, the order in which they actually occurred in time. The personal narrative incorporates vivid descriptive details as well as the thoughts, feelings, and reactions of the writer.

Characteristics of the Personal Narrative

1. Focuses on **one** experience.
2. Shows the purpose clearly in that **the importance of the event is clear** to the reader.
3. Expresses the writer's **thoughts and feelings** throughout.
4. Is written in the first person **"I"**.
5. Has mainly **relevant sensory** details (things for the reader to see, hear, feel, smell, taste).
6. Must have dialogue in order for the reader to **feel like they are there**.
7. Must have **why it is important** and/or **how it affected** the writer.

Parts of a Personal Narrative

All personal narratives should have the following:

1. A **beginning** that grabs the reader's interest; sometimes gives background information and a hint about the meaning or importance of the event.
2. A **middle** that tells about important events, describes people and places and tells the writer's thoughts and feelings.
3. An **ending** in which the writer explains the outcome and show the meaning of the experience (what they learned from it).

Choosing a Topic

1. Write about something you remember well.
2. Write about something that has meaning or importance to you.
3. Write about something you do not care to have read by others.