

Project: Narrative Essay

Assignment: Write a narrative essay in the first person point of view. (Tell a story from your life.)

What is a Narrative Essay?

When you're writing a narrative essay, you're telling a story about a personal experience from one person's point of view.

The Elements of a Narrative Essay

1. **Definite Purpose:** Decide on the purpose of your essay before you start. Why do you want to tell this story? What do you hope to show or teach your audience?

For example, in his narrative, Douglass had the purpose of raising the awareness of the reader regarding the lasting effects of slavery on all those involved, whether the oppressor and the oppressed.

2. **Make it a story:** Your narrative will need to engage the reader, and the best way to do that is with a story.

That means that your narrative should include characters, setting, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.

3. **Use figurative language:** Use a clear and concise, descriptive **style** that says more than just the words alone. The use of imagery, metaphors, personification, hyperbole, allusion, and alliteration will make your narrative come to life.

4. **Use the word "I":** This is your chance to use the word "I" in your writing! With that said, be careful not to overuse it. When it's possible to use another word, do so, as it further defines your writing style and the diversity keeps your reader engaged.

5. **Develop your characters:** Even though this essay will be told from your own perspective or that of your main character's, that's not the only perspective to be considered. Develop your other characters, too.

6. **Get organized!** Use a graphic organizer to plan out your essay before you start.

You'll need to have a clear introduction, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.

6. **Edit:** Even though you think you're done, your editing work has just begun! Editing is an important step that can't be ignored if you want to write a strong essay.

7. **Name it:** Your title is what your readers will see and hear more than any other words in your essay. It should reflect your purpose, your overall tone, and connect two key words from your final sentence.

Story Organizer:

Characters & Setting:

Who is in the story?

What are they like? •

When/Where does the story take place?

Plot/Conflict:

What is the big problem/issue in your story?

How does the problem start?

Who is involved with the problem?

Climax/Resolution:

How is the problem resolved?

What happens after it is?

What is learned?

What is the theme/lesson/moral?