

Unit 1

Personal

Narratives

Lesson 1: Introduction to Personal Narratives

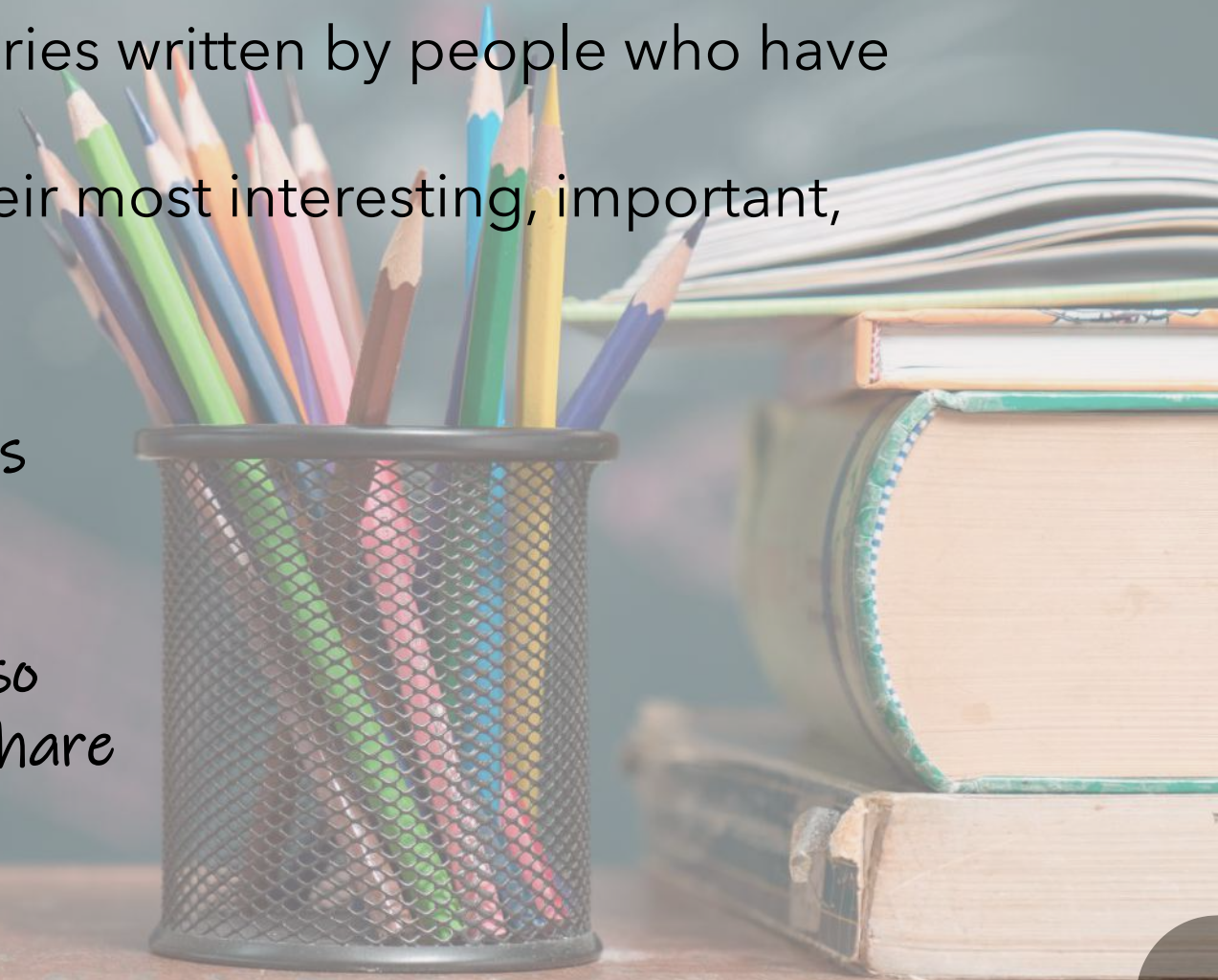


Unit 1 Introduction

- In this unit we will be reading true stories written by people who have experienced them.
- These authors use writing to share their most interesting, important, exciting, or fun memories.

YOU will also write true stories about things you've experienced!

I am **VERY** interested in your experiences, so think of me as your audience! We may even share some with the class!



Defining Personal Narratives

- **What do you think of when you hear the word *personal*?**



Defining Personal Narratives

➤ **What do you think of when you hear the word *personal*?**

- **Belongs to someone**
- **Unique to someone**
- **Mine**



Defining Personal Narratives

- **What do you think of when you hear the word *narrative*?**



Defining Personal Narratives

➤ **What do you think of when you hear the word *narrative*?**

- **A Story**
- **Beginning, middle, end**
- **Telling what happened**
- **Narrator**



Defining Personal Narratives

- **Fiction: a made-up story**
- **Nonfiction: a true story**
- **First Person: told from the narrator's perspective, "I" is the narrator**



Defining Personal Narratives

Activity 1.2

Defining *Personal Narratives*

Write the definition of *Personal Narrative* in the space below.

**A personal narrative is a piece of nonfiction writing
told in the first person by someone who was involved
in the events being described.**

List three things that make an essay a personal narrative:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

A Memory Paragraph

Activity 1.1

- Field Day
- Phy Ed
- Music
- Art
- Library
- Summer School
- Christmas Program
- Science Experiments
- Teachers
- Something Funny
- Something you were proud of

A Memory Paragraph

In this activity you will write a paragraph describing a school memory. It could be exciting, funny, scary, or surprising, but it must be true.

1. Start by brainstorming some school memories on the following lines. Try to write at least five different ideas. Then circle the one you want to write about.

A Memory Paragraph

Activity 1.1

2. What makes a good paragraph?

Writers often organize good paragraphs using a common set of guidelines. First, writers include a topic sentence to introduce the topic or main idea of the paragraph. The topic sentence tells what the paragraph will be about. Next, writers include supporting sentences to explain the topic or main idea. Writers usually include at least three to five sentences to give the reader supporting details and facts about the topic or main idea. Including interesting facts and details helps make the paragraph informative and interesting to read. It is important that the sentences stick to the topic. Finally, writers end the paragraph with a concluding sentence, or their final thought about the topic or main idea. Using these guidelines can be helpful to writing a clear and informative paragraph.

A Memory Paragraph

Activity 1.1

- Write your Memory Paragraph using the sentence frames!
- Do your best with spelling! It is OK if you need to guess!

Unit 1 Lesson 1 Memory Paragraph Sentence Frames

The _____ thing that ever happened to me at school
was _____
_____.
First, _____
_____.
Then, _____
_____.
Finally, _____
_____.
I felt _____ when this happened.

Six-Word Memories

- Let's read a few "six-word" memories!
- Then we will make *inferences* to determine where and when the story takes place and how the narrator feels.
- Let's use a chart to help us make our inferences!



	Narrator	Where	When	Feeling
Snow angels, loving family, hot chocolate				
Snow falling, teeth chattering, keep warm				
Swallowed tooth. Morning, dollar on stomach				
High swings. Chain slacks. Bloodied knees.				
Wheels spin. Pedals slip. Hello gravel.				
Each year, more pie. Happy holiday.				
Moon, lake, camp friends sharing secrets.				
Award ceremony. Winter boots. Shame. Shame.				
My dog. Tunneling through snow mountains.				

Six-Word Memories

Activity 1.3

1. Snow angels, loving family, hot chocolate.

2. Snow falling, teeth chattering, keep warm.

3. Swallowed tooth. Morning, dollar on stomach.

4. High swings. Chain slacks. Bloodied knees.

Six-Word Memories

Activity 1.3

5. Wheels spin. Pedals slip. Hello gravel.

6. Each year, more pie. Happy holiday.

7. Moon, lake, camp friends sharing secrets.

8. Award ceremony. Winter boots. Shame. Shame.

9. My dog. Tunneling through snow mountains.

Six-Word Memories

- **Now let's read our memory paragraphs again!**
- **Think about the most important words from that memory.**
- **Highlight up to 10 words in your paragraph.**



Six-Word Memories

Activity 1.4

Write the words you highlighted in your paragraph.

Writing Six-Word Memories

Flip back to Activity Page 1.1 and circle the most important words in the paragraph. When choosing your words, think about what is most important in the memory. Also think about what words are most specific, or create the most immediate and interesting picture in your head. There may be a few more than six, but no more than ten. Write them below:

Six-Word Memories

Activity 1.4

**Now of those 10 words,
narrow it down to a six-
word memory that
makes sense!**

Now choose the six words from that list that can make a six-word memory that makes sense.

Six-word memory:

Six-Word Memories

Activity 1.4

1. What facts, events, and details did you include from your longer paragraph?

2. Why did you choose to include these facts, events, and details?

3. What did you leave out? Why did you choose to leave it out?

4. What do you think a reader will be able to infer from your six-word memory?
