

Unit I

Personal Narratives



Personal Narratives

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

Three things that make an essay a personal narrative:

1. It must be true/nonfiction.
2. It must be in first person.
3. It must be about an event that involved the narrator.

Three Major Parts of a Good Paragraph:

1. Main Idea/Topic Sentence:

Introduce situation in memory/first paragraph

2. Supporting sentences:

Events and details in supporting paragraph (or paragraphs)

3. Concluding Sentence:

Connect your memory to the present with a concluding paragraph explaining why your memory is important to you.

Transition Words

words and phrases you use in writing to connect one idea to the next.

Related to Time:

first/at first/in the first place
(also works for second, third
etc.)

to begin with

secondly,

thirdly

before/after

eventually

next

then

finally

in the end

at last earlier/later

NOT Related to Time:

and

such as

for example

but

however

since

as long as

so

therefore

Character Traits

adjectives used to describe someone's personality

Examples:

mean

dishonest

sneaky

kind

brave

lazy

strong

courageous

happy

leader

clever

funny

Dialogue Punctuation: Five Rules

1. Quotation marks are placed before the first word of the dialogue and after the punctuation mark that ends the dialogue.

Example:

"It is," said Father.

Father said, "It is."

2. When the tag follows the dialogue, it ends in a period. When the tag precedes the dialogue, it ends in a comma.

Example:

"It is," said Father.

Father said, "It is."

3. The punctuation that ends a line of dialogue is written inside the quotation marks.

Example:

"Just where do you think you're going?" Father demanded.

Father demanded, "Just where do you think you're going?"

Dialogue Punctuation: Five Rules

4. When the tag follows the dialogue, quotes that do not end in an exclamation point or question mark end in a comma instead of a period.

Example:

Correct: "It is," said Father.

Incorrect: "It is." said father.

5. When writing dialogue between two or more speakers, begin a new paragraph each time the speaker changes.

Example:

Viola jealously stared at Ollie's pudding. She had not had pudding in weeks. "Give me a taste," she said.

"I paid for this. Go buy your own," Ollie answered.

Pleeease," Viola begged. Ollie did not answer for a few seconds. He looked back and forth between his pudding and Viola.

"Fine," Ollie gave in, handing Viola the pudding. "You can have one bite, but that's it."

Sensory Details

Imagery that appeals to the five senses.

Five Senses:

sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell

Examples:

Smell: floral, sour, fruity, sweet smelling, fruity...

Hear: loud, buzzing, quiet, bubbling, gargling...

Touch: soft, hard, rough, slimy, sandy, cold, hot....

Taste: burnt, stale, smoky, sweet, salty...

Sight: foggy, bright, pale. lush, massive...

Cause & Effect

explains the relationship between two events when the first event results in the second event happening.

Examples:

Cause

- Mother wants a unique and musical name.
- Father has a daughter.



Effect

- She creates a name from Italian musical terms.
- Father becomes a feminist.

Metaphors & Similes

Metaphors: compares things **WITHOUT** using like or as
Similes: compares things using **like** or **as**

Examples:

Metaphors

- The responsibility for keeping track of the money was a weight on her shoulders.
- The toddler was a hurricane in the playroom.
- The sound of the rain was footsteps on the roof.

Similes

- The flower **is** pretty as a picture.
- The carpenter **is** strong as an ox.
- The bed **is** hard as a rock

Vital Verbs

walked

- trudged
- skipped
- pranced
- galloped

threw

- tossed
- hurled
- lobbed

said

- whispered
- moaned
- crowed

looked

- gazed
- peered
- stared

ate

- picked
- gobbled
- nibbled

opened

- ajar
- sprang
- agape