



Learning Narrative

Learning Narratives may be used to better document **informal learning** – learning which occurs in daily life, in the family, in the workplace, in communities, and through interests, hobbies, and activities of individuals. Learning Narratives will be used as stand-in portfolio artifacts for experiences and learning which are not easily documented, whether it be your activities as a parent, as a hobbyist, as a member of an organization or team, as an employee, as a consumer, etc.

PART I: Prewriting Mind-Map

With the help of a mind-map, on paper or using Inspiration software, begin outlining the details of your experience like peeling back an onion – expose every layer of your learning.

First Layer What I Did = Actions	Second Layer What I Learned = Results
<p>Describe all aspects of your experience in detail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did I do or achieve? • What was new to me? • What were my responsibilities? • How did I do it? • How did I know what to do? • When did I feel challenged? • When did I problem solve? • How did I overcome challenges? • What attitude did I have towards the experience? • When did I have to work with others? 	<p>Describe the outcomes of your actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What were the outcomes of my actions? • What did I learn from each aspect of my experience? • What skills did I have to use to achieve the expected outcomes? • When did your attitudes change? Why?
Third Layer Dimensions of Performance = Ability	Fourth Layer How I Can Prove It = Documentation
<p>To what degree of skill did I demonstrate in achieving these outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where did I experience difficulty? • Can I perform these tasks with confidence? • How much help do I need from others? • Can you perform in this way in a variety of settings or unfamiliar places? • Can you do this with someone watching you? 	<p>How could I possibly prove my ability to someone I did not share the experience with?</p>

PART II: Putting It Together – Learning Narrative

Using a word processor, reformulate the information on your mind-map into structured paragraphs as a learning narrative. This should give the reader a fully detailed image of exactly what you achieved, what you learned, how proficient you are, and how you can prove it.

Learning narratives may be added to the appropriate section of your portfolio, including your best evidence of this experience if you have it. Use the learning narrative to round out sections of your portfolio that are weak, or to really highlight your skill strengths. Write as many as you feel are necessary – but be sure to mind your written communication skills (writing process, traits of writing, peer editing, revising, etc.).