

NARRATIVE WRITING

WHAT IS A NARRATIVE ESSAY?

A Narrative Essay is an informal piece of writing that relates a story from real life events experienced by the author. The experience serves as a vehicle for a specific point the author wants to make in his or her essay and includes the authors commentary on the event.

WHAT DOES A NARRATIVE ESSAY INCLUDE?

A narrative essay should all the parts of a story.

- An introduction
- A Plot—sequence of events
- Characters
- Setting or place
- Climax or focal point of the story
- Conclusion

A narrative essay should also include:

- Purpose – The purpose acts as the thesis of your narrative essay
- Point of View – Usually first person (I, Me, We)

Note: Usually in professional essays the author will avoid first person; however, for a narrative essay it is ok.

- Place and time, similar to setting. (Your reader should never wonder “Wait, where did this happen? When was this going on?)
- Clear and concise language – avoid passive voice, wordy or awkward sentence structures, and be verbs (see *Verb Power*, *Awkward Sentences*, & *Wordy Sentences* videos and handouts for more help on this point).

DESCRIPTION

Description is just as important in a narrative essay as it is in any story. We live our lives through a collection of sensory experiences, so in order for the audience to understand the author, the author must use sensory description.

Good descriptions include:

- Details
- Good Adjectives
- Descriptions of emotions
- The five senses
 - Sight
 - Touch
 - Taste
 - Smell
 - Sound

Note: A good rule of thumb is to make sure that each page of writing includes at least three of the five senses.