

FINAL PERSONAL NARRATIVE

Guidelines: You will develop a final **personal narrative essay** (AROUND 650 words) that retells an important personal memory. Your narrative must provide the reader with details that reflect who you are, why this transformational memory is important, and the lesson you learned.

Step 1: Read over the personal narrative you wrote. Make note of what you did well and what you must do to improve. Be specific!

What you did well	What you must improve
-I think I did well at describing how my earth science class and teacher changed my life in a great way.	-I must improve on following the story arc in my writing.

Step 2:

[Read through the topic options.](#)

TOPIC OPTIONS
High School

<p>Personal Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trying to learn how to play guitar • My mom and dad's divorce 	<p>The First Time I Tried . . .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to skateboard • to swim • to speak in front of the class 	<p>My First Day of . . .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • middle school • singing lessons
<p>Personal Triumphs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting help with a bullying problem • Making friends with Clarisa, the new girl 	<p>Friendships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My best friend Danny • My cafeteria buddies • My study partners 	<p>Mistakes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forgetting to turn the hose off • Trusting a kid I didn't know with my backpack
<p>Growing Up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The time I thought most of the other kids in my class were smarter than I was • The time I thought I was really in love 	<p>Family Traditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family dinners together every night • Holiday gatherings and traditional get-togethers every year 	<p>Other Important/ Significant Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The time I put off finishing a school-related project • The time I went along with my friends and got in trouble

1. tive#...
2. Or choose a prompt from [The New York Times](#).

My Earth Science Experience

Step 3:

What will the theme of your personal narrative be? In other words, what do you want to leave with your readers?

The theme of my personal narrative is about my love for earth science and how Mr. Van Eck is my mentor.

Step 4: Complete the chart for your planned narrative

Complete a ROUGH outline of your story. You should start with what you want me to take away from it (resolution); then, decide what to start with (write your first 2-3 lines/exposition); lastly, figure out what goes in between--you should BULLET POINT your major plot events.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

Exposition	Rising Action	Climax	Falling Action	Resolution
<p>Type it here</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Main Character:</i> Me 2. <i>When:</i> September 2021 3. <i>Where:</i> Ardsley High School 4. <i>Circumstan</i> 	<p>Type it here</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Introduce the conflict:</i> <i>What makes this story tense?</i> <p>My conflict is before I started 9th grade last year, I didn't know what to expect and I didn't know</p>	<p>Type it here</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Turning point:</i> How does the main character face the conflict? I started earth science and I faced the conflict by listening to Mr. Van Eck teaching which helped me understand 	<p>Type it here</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What happens to make the tension dissipate? (Slowly go away) I feel calm in my mind when I am listening to Mr. Van Eck because it helps me understand 	<p>Type it here</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What lessons are learned? When you are new to high school It is all a process and try not to be anxious

ce: My favorite subject and I love it.

what earth science was going to be like.

earth science better.
2. What important choice does the main character make? The important choice that I made is to listen and pay attention and go to 9th period for help for earth science so I can understand it better.

the material better and I can ask questions.
2. What happens after the character faces the conflict? After I face the conflict I feel happy that I can ask questions if I have them and that I know what earth science is like.

because you will get help along the way and Mr. Van Eck is a nice teacher and helps me a lot!
2. What is the most important point of your story? The most important point of my story is that when your teacher is really nice and enthusia

				<p>stic that can change your whole life and it can make you more intereste d in the subject</p>
--	--	--	--	---

Remember to include these key elements.

Elements of a Narrative		
<p>IDEA</p> <p>Write about a transformational/metamorphic moment</p> <p>Teach the reader about YOU</p>	<p>FORM</p> <p>Make sure it is logically organized</p> <p>The structure should reflect your purpose</p>	<p>TECHNIQUES</p> <p><u>Literary devices</u> that enhance author's voice, purpose, and main idea (e.g. anecdote, simile flashback, imagery)</p>

Step 5: Complete Your Narrative - ROUGH DRAFT

When writing your story, make sure you complete the following:

Introducing your story: Grab your readers' attention then plop them into the story. Don't waste time on unnecessary details or unrelated background information. You could begin with a piece of dialogue, a shocking fact, a compelling image, an action or a question. You could start with a pivotal moment and then flashback to provide context.

Telling the story: Use your outline to stay focused; don't drift into unnecessary details. Show the readers the people and events that they need to see and do it in a compelling, easy to follow way. Questions to ask yourself:

- What background details are necessary to guide the reader?
- Is setting important? If so, how and why? What sensory details can I use to create the setting and illustrate its importance?
- What is the conflict and how is it resolved?
- How can I build to a climactic moment?
- Who needs to be in this story? How can I "show" these people to the reader?
- How could dialogue enhance the narrative?
- How can I show my feelings and reactions?
- How do I keep the focus on my purpose?

Conclude: Don't summarize your points. Leave your reader with a "so what?" Why is this story significant? Why does it matter to you? What did you learn? What could the reader learn from it? You can close with an image, dialogue, a question (or an answer to the question you posed in the beginning) or an action. Often, effective conclusions will circle back to and mirror your opening. For example:

- *Intro:* Could you ever lie to someone that you love? Could you whisper words designed to deceive, just so you can get what you want?
- *Conclusion:* I lied to my nanna and it changed me forever.

Checklist

Aside from checking your writing for the usual things (i.e. spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc.), check your work for aspects related to organization, idea development, and use of language.

ORGANIZATION:

- ❑ Your lead is engaging and draws the reader into the story.
- ❑ The events of the narrative follow logically, building on each other so they are clear and easy to follow.
- ❑ You have a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative.
- ❑ Transitions are used to effectively tie the parts of the narrative together.

IDEA DEVELOPMENT:

- ❑ Your ideas are fully developed with multiple clear details and examples, allowing the reader to “see” what happened and to understand the importance of the memory you have chosen to share.

USE OF LANGUAGE:

- ❑ You have chosen precise words and phrases, showing details, and figurative and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.

If you're having trouble getting started, take a look at the list below which includes the narratives we read in class and other samples.

Sample Narratives

[Michael Jones Bey's](#)

[Mindy Kaling's](#)

[Jeniffer Kim's](#)

[@abigail_vmack](#)

["My Name"-Sandra Cisneros](#)

["One Liar's Beginning"- Brady Udall](#)

["Go Carolina"- David Sedaris](#)

["The Masked Marvel's Last Toehold"-Richard Selzer](#)

[Read Something Good](#)

Write your rough draft here:

The morning of *September 9th 2021* was the first day of Ardsley High School. The sky was light blue and there were a lot of clouds in the sky. I was nervous about what earth science was going to be like but I was excited at the same time. Earth science became my favorite subject and I love it. I loved when we did the rock and minerals lab. The first rock I got to touch and feel was Scoria. Scoria can be dark gray or black and it has a rough texture. Scoria is vesicular which means it is a volcanic rock and it has gas bubbles. The second rock I got to feel the texture of was Gneiss. Gneiss can be light or dark gray and it is foliated which means it is arranged in bands. Gneiss also has a coarse texture and it is metamorphic which means the rock got transformed by heat or pressure. A mineral I got to touch was Hematite. Hematite can be metallic silver or an earthy red. Hematite has a red-brown streak and has a greasy texture. It is used for ore of iron and jewelry and its hardness is 5.5 to 6.5 or 1. When I rubbed these rocks and a mineral against the streak plate it sounds like scratching your nails on a chalkboard and it depends on the hardness of the mineral or rock on how hard it is going to scratch on the streak plate. When I discovered these rocks and the mineral I felt my face heat up when I got so excited and realized that I was able to experiment with these rocks and the mineral. I looked forward to going to Mr. Van Eck's class everyday and Mr. Van Eck is so entertaining and made the learning so much more fun and he made me interested in earth science. Before I started 9th grade last year, I didn't know what to expect and I didn't know what earth science was going to be like. I knew I had a regents exam in June and that I had to pay attention because I wanted to make sure that I passed it and I was nervous about the exam but Mr. Van Eck helped me in class. "Hey Mr. Van Eck Can I have help with this question?" "Yes, so why isn't Coal a mineral?" "I don't

remember”

“Ok that’s ok so let’s talk about this for a second.” “ Coal isn’t a mineral because it forms from decaying plants and animals.” “Ok thank you so much for your help Mr. Van Eck!”

“You’re welcome I hope this helped you understand it better” “It did thank you!”. I went to Mr. Van Eck’s classroom during 9th period almost everyday so that I could get more help. I started earth science and I listened to Mr. Van Eck teaching which helped me understand earth science better. The most important point of my story and that I hope you all take away from this is that when you have a teacher who is really nice and enthusiastic that can change your whole entire life and it can make you even more interested in the subject they are teaching you about and it makes you really like the teacher a lot! My earth science experience is the best experience I have ever had and this experience and Mr. Van Eck really changed my life forever in so many amazing, positive, ways and Mr. Van Eck is the best teacher I have ever had and he truly inspired me in so many amazing ways to want to become an earth science teacher! This experience really matters to me because it changed my life and Mr. Van Eck is the best teacher ever and he is such an incredible role model and overall amazing and sweet and hilarious person and teacher. I hope I can do what he does for his job and become an earth science teacher!

REMEMBER, YOU MUST INCLUDE:

- A WELL DEVELOPED CONFLICT

- COMPLEX AND WELL DEVELOPED CHARACTERS**
- IMAGERY(ALL 5)/RICH SENSORY LANGUAGE**
- METAPHOR**
- SIMILE**
- DIALOGUE**
- FLASHBACK WITHIN THE MEMORY(SEE MICHAEL'S)**
- FORESHADOWING**
- SUSPENSE**
- A CONCLUSION THAT REFLECTS ON WHAT IS EXPERIENCED AND RESOLVED**

THE FINAL DRAFT OF YOUR NARRATIVE SHOULD BE SUBMITTED ON TURNITIN.COM.

Step 6: Record Your Narrative

Record and visually present your narrative.

There are numerous ways to accomplish this task

- 1) [Screencastify](#)
- 2) [Slides with an audio recording](#)
- 3) [Flipgrid](#)
- 4) [Imovie \(or equivalent\)](#)
- 5) [Premiere Pro by Adobe](#)
- 6) Cell phone video recorder

[Wevideo](#)

See 10th graders [Mel Boochan's sample](#) and [Michael Jones-Bey's sample](#)

Requirements:

- The recording must include 7-10 visuals (unless it is a continuous video) to enhance the story. The images must be consistent with your voice, the sensory language, the tone, the mood, and the main idea of your memoir.
- Be engaging when you tell the story!
- Add music or other entertainment/enhancements to enhance the story
- Be yourself and have fun :)

Rubrics

Narrative recording/Dramatic Reading of Personal Narrative [Rubric](#)
Personal Narrative [Rubric](#)

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Select your topic by 9/29
- Have *at least* 350-500 words written of your narrative by 10/3. Review the document attached to this assignment for ideas about how to start your personal narrative.
- You will receive some time in class to work on this, but it is YOUR responsibility to make sure you are working at an appropriate pace. This might require some writing to be completed at home. Turn in your final draft on Turnitin by 10/11. (Your final narrative should be about 650 words in length.)
- Attach your final narrative recording to this assignment by 11:59pm PM on 10/11/22

Sample Narratives

["My Name"-Sandra Cisneros](#)

["One Liar's Beginning"- Brady Udall](#)

["Go Carolina"- David Sedaris](#)

["The Masked Marvel's Last Toehold"-Richard Selzer](#)