

Narrative Essay Outline

It is important that you think about and plan your writing task before you begin your first draft. Solving problems and resolving issues during the pre-writing stage now will save you time in the end.

1. In twenty words or less explain the ONE EVENT this essay will focus on.

2. Review the sheet entitled “Narrative Leads”. Decide whether ACTION, DIALOGUE, WHO/WHAT/WHEN, or REACTION best suits the story you want to tell. Explain why you chose this lead style.

3. What are the details that count in your story? Choose only details that move your story forward. Use point form to outline the story’s development. Highlight your climax.

4. Are there any areas where you might use humour, surprise, suspense or irony in your essay?

5. A strong narrative always has a clear meaning. What is the meaning in your story? Why did you decide to share it with other people?

6. As you write your narrative SHOW don’t TELL your reader what happens. Use only meaningful dialogue. What is your plan for accomplishing this? Give some examples.

7. Remember – write from the heart about something that is/was important to you. The best essays evoke an emotional response from the reader. Any final thoughts?

