

# Personal Narrative Paragraph Assignment

Write a paragraph about something that happened to you – it must be true.

Pick one of the topics on the right and write an interesting and well planned paragraph of at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a page.

Pick a topic that is MEANINGFUL and has some SIGNIFICANCE to you.

Start your paragraph when the event begins – don't give the reader too much information. We don't need to know about how long it took to get to Mexico, but rather tell us an amazing experience you had there. Choose purposeful details.

## Possible Topics:

- ☺ A time you learned a lesson
- ☺ A time you were afraid
- ☺ An embarrassing moment
- ☺ A time you felt grown up
- ☺ Your proudest moment
- ☺ A time you got into a lot of trouble
- ☺ Your scariest moment
- ☺ A memorable day with a relative
- ☺ A time when you conquered a fear
- ☺ Your own idea

"Organizing is what you do before you do something, so that when you do it it's not all mixed up." -- Winnie the Pooh

## Paragraph criteria:

- ☺ Be at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  page in length, double-spaced, either typed or in blue or black ink
- ☺ Have an interesting title (not "Narrative Paragraph")
- ☺ Must have a catchy opening sentence (hook)
- ☺ Must be about something meaningful/significant
- ☺ Must be edited carefully to avoid conventional errors (spelling, punctuation, grammar, usage)
- ☺ Must include important, vivid details, with specific word choices

## Marking Criteria:

Each criteria will be assessed on a sliding scale of 4 (4 –outstanding, 3- strong, 2 – adequate, 1- weak)

Written Component		/28
Criteria		Mark
Required format – typed or neatly printed, double-spaced, includes class info, about $\frac{3}{4}$ page (150-250 words)		
Proper Paragraph format – includes a catchy topic sentence, 5-6 body sentences with detail, and a concluding sentence		
Organization – paragraph is organized in a meaningful and coherent manner (usually by order of events or time sequence) and is easy to follow		
Description – paragraph "shows" the reader through imagery and vivid description; the reader can visualize the events as they occur		
Sentence fluency – sentences flow from one to the next; logical connections are made for the reader; variety of sentence lengths and structures		
Conventions – paragraph has been carefully edited to avoid errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar, capitalization and formatting		
Overall effect – paragraph is interesting to read and displays the student's best effort, ability and unique voice		
Oral Component		/20
Voice inflections – effective use of differing tones to set mood for the reading		
Voice level – voice is loud, clear and controlled		
Body Movement – standing tall to deliver; no distracting movements; good posture		
Eye Contact – attempts at eye contact throughout the room; appears comfortable		
Enthusiasm/ Comfort level – exudes confidence; appears prepared and comfortable		

## Oral component:

After you write your composition, you will read it aloud to the class – this will help practice oral presentation skills & also be a chance to share your work.

**Due date:**

**Thurs, Oct 21**