

Purpose: The purpose is to describe a story in your life, detailing the account with dialogue, the main events, setting, descriptions of people, and other personal observations.

Introduction: The introduction should engage the reader in the middle of your story, showing a general scope of what happened and why the story is significant.

Body paragraphs: The body paragraphs should explain what happened in the story and how it has impacted you and/or others. Here are a few things to keep in mind while writing the body paragraphs:

Audience: Don't assume that your audience is familiar with the contents of your story. Include all relevant details.

Structure: The most used format is a chronological one (i.e. stating the events of your story in chronological order), but this method may not be the most effective way. You can also use a flashback approach, starting with your perspective from the present time and then discussing a past event. Also, you can use a reflective approach, which offers insights about specific parts of your event but not necessarily in order.

Literary Devices: Use similes, metaphors, alliteration, allusions, and imagery to provide concrete details and support for your story.

Tense: Keep in mind what tense you want to use, whether present or past.

Dialogue: Dialogue can engage the reader into your story more, making the story's realism become more apparent. Determine if this element would help with the overall purpose of your personal narrative.

Conclusion: Your conclusion should further explain the impact this event had on you. Do not moralize in your conclusion (i.e. Friendship is a good thing to have; drinking and driving is bad; etc.). Provide a more complex view of your story. What does the story mean to you?

Additional Help with Personal Narrative:

Fill out the boxes with your ideas.

Event in your life:

Plot:

Setting:

Description of people/dialogue:

Other personal observations:

Significance of event: