

Narrative Structure

MEANING

- Your reflection on the event(s)
- Lesson learned through this story

OUTCOME

- Result of the struggle
- The resolution

STRUGGLE

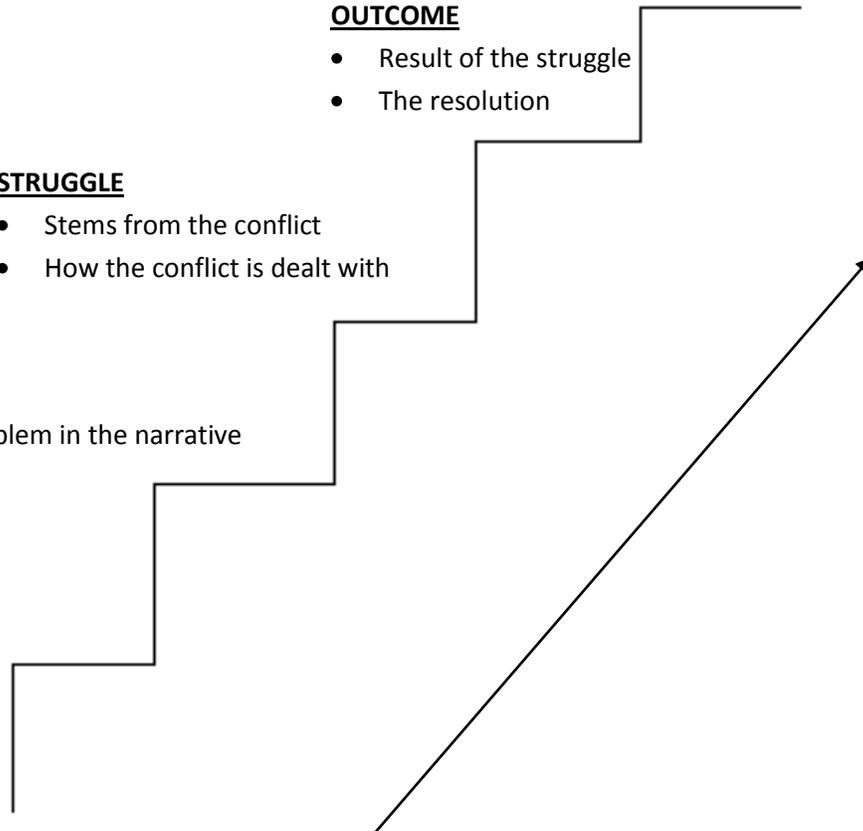
- Stems from the conflict
- How the conflict is dealt with

CONFLICT

- Tension
- The problem in the narrative

SITUATION

- Setting (time and place)
- Background/context



When writing a narrative, keep the following points in mind:

Tense and Action:

Generally, narratives can be written in the past tense, since the event has already taken place. However, sometimes, depending on your instructor's specifications, present tense can be used. Remember, a narrative chronicles an event, almost like scenes in a film. Keep in mind the action.

Point of View:

Narration often lends itself to first person point of view (I, me, mine, our). Third person point of view (he, she, they, etc.) is often acceptable as well. Be sure to consult your assignment guide or your instructor for specific requirements.

Descriptive Detail:

Use rich images, sensory description (the five senses), and specific language, including strong, active verbs, to bring your narrative to life.

Dialogue:

You might incorporate spoken language to develop your characters. Again, check with your instructor to be sure that using dialogue is acceptable for your assignment. Consult a writing or grammar handbook for the rules on properly formatting dialogue (quotation marks, spacing).

Narrative Structure Graphic Organizer

Situation:

Conflict:

Struggle:

Outcome:

Meaning: