

**APSU Writing Center**  
Writing a Personal Narrative

## **Personal Narrative**

- A personal narrative tells a story about a real-life event that had a significant impact on you. It's usually written in first person and highlights a transformative experience, your struggles, and the lessons learned.

## **Narrative Storytelling Tips**

- Use first-person pronouns (I, me, my).
- Focus on personal experiences, including challenges, triumphs, and hopes.
- Include vivid sensory details (sight, sound, smell, touch, taste).
- Follow your instructor's word count and prompts.

## **Writing a Personal Narrative**

### **Introduction**

- Set the scene and provide background.
- Introduce key characters and your initial feelings.
- Keep details broad to build interest.

### **The Story**

- Describe the events in detail.
- Show emotions through actions and dialogue.

### **Reflection and Analysis**

- Explain what you learned from the experience.
- Discuss how it changed you or shaped your perspective.

### **Conclusion**

- Summarize the significance of the event.
- Reflect on why this memory matters and what it taught you.



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**Questions to Guide Your Narrative**

- Who are key characters? Who influenced you?
- What happened? Central event or turning point? Theme or message?
- When did it happen? When did you understand the lesson?
- Where did it occur? Where did the story reach its climax?
- Why did it happen? Why is it significant? Why share it?

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Personal Narrative Outline

**Introduction:** Introduce topic, give background, state thesis.

**Paragraph 1:** Describe situation, key details (location, people, emotions).

**Paragraph 2:** Describe the event by including sensory details, highlighting the key moment.

**Paragraph 3:** Reflect on your feelings and how they evolved; connect to life lessons.

**Conclusion:** Summarize what you learned, tie back to thesis, end with a final reflection.



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### References

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