

Personal Narrative

700-1000 words

Due via Google Docs by Wednesday, October 6

Format: Times New Roman, 12 pt, double-spaced

Structure: Hybrid between an academic essay and five-act plot (Freytag's Pyramid)

Before tuning it in, endeavor to answer these questions:

- Did I fully explain what happened? (including who, when, where, and how)
- Did I fully examine how this event (or series of events) impacted me?
- Am I still processing what I've learned?
- Have I chosen descriptive language over generic words and phrases?
- Does the story flow smoothly from one paragraph to the next?
- Have I run a spell-check or tended to any grammatical errors?
- Have I given this story a title?
- Have I met the requirements for the assignment?

Writing Prompts

1. Describe one of the hardest decisions you've had to make in your life. Examine the events that eventually led to your decision and how you felt afterward.
2. Describe a recurring struggle you have and how you endeavor to overcome it. Consider the support system you have in place to help you.
3. Recall some of the happiest moments in your life. Look for the common thread and consider what these moments have taught you about life in general.
4. Think about what has given you the biggest bouts of inspiration, whether creatively or productivity-wise. Consider what inspires you and whether or not there is something about you in particular that responds to this particular type of inspiration or encouragement.
5. Think about your family history. Is there a series of stories or events that have directly influenced who you are today or who you are becoming? Narrow down two or three smaller stories that all have a similar theme and contribute greatly to who you are as an individual and in your family.
6. If you have strong beliefs politically, religiously, or philosophically, dig into the earliest foundations of those beliefs. Where did they come from? What experiences have you had that solidified those beliefs? What challenges your belief system, and how you are looking for answers in life?
7. Have you ever been in a situation where fear was a motivator for action? Have you ever been in a frightening situation, a life-changing situation, or some sort of scenario where you felt in danger? Tell the story of what happened, then explore how the experience left you a changed person.
8. If humor is a significant part of your life, consider some of the funniest moments you've ever experienced. Retell the story/stories in as much detail as possible and examine why humor is valuable to you.
9. If you've ever taken a life-changing trip, write about it. Go back to when the trip was still in planning mode and consider whether or not you anticipated it being as pivotal as it was. Describe everything that left a lasting impression on you. Write about what you've learned.

