

## ***Personal Narrative***

### ***The Voice of Youth Telling the World What They Think***

The editors of a new magazine for teens are asking for your help. The magazine will be featuring a section entitled, *“Who Am I? My Personal Journey”* in each of its issues. Readers are asked to contribute stories in which they will tell how their lives have been shaped in some way by a person or an event. The challenge is to go that step beyond! Compare that event and what happened in your life to a poem, novel, movie, or short story. What is the connection? The magazine editors will select one narrative to feature each month that they hope their readers will find engaging and uplifting.

Your challenge is to write and submit a first-person narrative about a person or event that has helped you think about the kind of person you are and/or want to be. Picture your body language, your facial expression, the setting, others in attendance, and the emotions that come to mind. Tell the story behind the scene – where you were, what you were doing, how you felt...let the readers of the magazine get to know you!

In order to be considered, your narrative should have

- an effective introduction to “hook” the reader;
- a body in which the event or person is clearly and carefully explained along with multiple sensory details from at least four of the five senses;
- the connection this has to a poem, novel, movie, or short story; and
- a conclusion that reflects on the significance of the event or the person in your life. You must also include dialogue using quotation marks correctly.

Use each stage of the writing process to complete your narrative. All work from every step will be part of the assessment for this assignment. You will turn in the whole writing process. Suggested length is 1-2 typed pages.

### ***“My Personal Journey” Narrative Requirements***

1. Prewriting – listing/brainstorming of events.
2. Guided brainstorming - a quick sketch of the person or event as if you’re telling it to a friend.
3. Sensory observation web (touching, tasting, smelling, hearing, seeing)
4. Sloppy copy – write a rough draft.
5. Peer support – highlight words and phrases that should be more VIVID or descriptive and complete the editing checklist so you can make necessary changes according to your peer support partner’s suggestions.
6. Neat sheet – final publishable copy with all changes/edits made, preferably typed. If not typed, please write in black or blue ink.

### ***Guided Prewriting for “My Personal Journey” Narrative***

1. You now have lists of possible people or events to write about for your essay. Look over your list. Choose two or three promising topics. These events can be common or unusual, humorous or serious, recent or distant, but consider them in light of these questions:
  - *Will I be able to tell what happened from beginning to end?*
  - *Can I recall specific details about the action, scene, and people?*
  - *As a fragment of my life story, does this event reveal anything important about me?*
2. Decide on one event or person to write about. Not everything needs to be clear to you at this point, but choose an event or person you feel drawn to explore further, one you expect will make a good narrative, and one that will lead you to insights about yourself.
3. Having chosen a promising event in your life, begin by making a rough sketch of the story. Write informally for a few minutes, as if you were telling a friend what happened. You may want to create an outline using brief phrases to indicate what you and others did.
4. Finally, reread your sketch or outline, and put an asterisk (\*) next to the high point or climax of your story, the point you think the story is building toward.