

### Narratives – Personal Narrative or Memoir

*Personal narratives are non-fictional, autobiographical 1<sup>st</sup>-person written accounts focusing on a singular significant event in the writer's life that changed the writer's outlook on life or that taught the writer a life lesson or insight. Memoirs are also non-fictional, autobiographical 1<sup>st</sup>-person written accounts. However, memoirs focus on a significant relationship that the writer has had with a person, place, or thing that, like a personal narrative, strongly influenced the writer and how he/she sees the world.*

**Task:** Compose a personal narrative or a memoir that at least 2 double-spaced pages in length and that tells a true story about a brief event in your life (personal narrative) **or** about an important relationship you have had with a person, place or thing (memoir). You must be the central character, as this is a 1<sup>st</sup>-person account, and the event or relationship has to be **significant** in some way in that there was a personal lesson that you learned from this singular event or relationship.

**Significant** means that you have consciously developed thematic ideas that reveals your perspective relating to some aspect of life. Because themes are abstract ideas, think metaphorically because concrete things **signify** abstract ideas. Extending a metaphor works well as an organizing concept in narrative writing.

#### **Due Dates:**

- Outline –
- Draft –
- Final –

#### **Requirements:**

- Develop and utilize dialogue within the narrative.
- You must be central character; therefore, you are writing in the 1<sup>st</sup>-person POV mode.
- Develop a title that is creative and descriptive of your paper. It should reflect the theme of your story while also providing a “hook” for your audience.
- Develop description through concise, relevant detail and imagery. **Show, don't tell!**
- Final drafts will consist of rich, appropriate language and will be edited for correct convention and punctuation usage.
- Paper must be typed and have proper formatting, which includes double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, proper heading, 1 inch margins, and no extra line spacing.

#### **Outline:**

Be sure to outline your narrative first. Organize the essay as a story. Outlines will be collected and it will count as an assignment of its own on Wednesday, 9/18. Have a beginning (an exposition), a middle, and an end (resolution).

#### **Example Narrative with Outlining Notes:**

On the following pages: