* 1. Personal Narratives
  2. Personal narratives are a form of writing in which the writer relates one event, incident, or experience from his/her life.
  3. Personal narratives allow you, the writer or speaker, to share your life with others, vicariously experiencing the things you describe. Your job as a writer or speaker is to put the readers in the midst of the action, letting them live through an event, incident, or experience.
  4. Personal narratives also incorporate vivid descriptive details, as well as the thoughts, feelings, and reactions of the writer or speaker.

A good personal narrative, like a good story, creates a dramatic effect, makes us laugh, gives us pleasurable fright, and/or gets us on the edge of our seats.

Although personal narratives capture true events, sometimes writers embellish or use hyperbole to illustrate a point or for dramatic effect.

A personal narrative has done its job effectively if the readers can say, “Yes, that captures what living with my mother feels like,” or “Yes, that’s what it felt like to lose the championship game.”

**Create a Personal Narrative that:**

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| * Engages the reader by introducing the narrator and situation * Organizes events to unfold naturally; manipulates time and pacing * Develops details of events with description and action * Develops characters with physical description and dialogue * Uses vivid verbs, sensory details, similes, metaphors, alliteration, onomatopoeia, and * personification to set tone and mood * Uses transitions and varies sentence beginnings * Closes with a reflection * Has all no excuse words and conventions correct * Has exemplary presentation (neat writing that is pleasant to read) |

* **Possible Topics**:

The bravest moment of your life

* The experience of overcoming a fear
* The moment your life changed forever
* Why you can succeed in life
* A difficult choice you have made
* A place that is special to you
* The experience of being let down by a friend
* A failure you experienced
* A disappointment you had
* A surprising turn of events you experienced
* A place you always try to avoid

What super power you choose to have

* If you could change someone’s life
* The biggest loss you have experienced
* If you could have a do-over
* Words that stung
* A book that has changed your life
* The proudest moment of your life
* Words that prompted hope
* If your dog or cat could talk
* Your favorite time with family
* If you could invent something
* If you could live in a different country
* The animal you would like to be
* One thing you would change about the world
* If you could change one thing about yourself
* If you could become a building
* The greatest discovery
* Your most fortunate day
* Your secret talent
* The ugliest thing you have seen
* The most beautiful thing you have seen
* An accident which changed everything
* Something you have witnessed
* A right choice
* A wrong choice
* If you could start a charity
* A close call
* A secret place
* A hard lesson
* An unexplained event
* Something you can’t resist
* A visitor that you can’t forget
* The longest moment you ever had
* An awkward social moment
* A near death experience
* The hardest news you had to deliver
* Why you will never tell a lie

When you needed a hug