Personal Narrative

READING WRITING WORKSHOP
Theme 1, Grade 4

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Introduction

What Makes a Great Personal Narrative?

A personal narrative is a true story about something that has happened to the person telling it.

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Introduction

When you write a personal narrative...

- use "*I*".
- grab your reader's attention at the beginning.
- include only the important events.
- keep to the topic.
- tell the events in order

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Introduction

When you write a personal narrative...

- include dialogue when appropriate.
- write from your own point of view in your own voice.
- end in a way that concludes the story and ties up loose ends.

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Introduction

Reading as a Writer

- Who is the author, or I, in this personal essay?
- How does the beginning draw you into the personal narrative right away?
- What is the topic, or focus, of this personal essay?

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Introduction

Reading as a Writer

- How many different feelings did you get from reading this personal narrative?
- Make a list of them.

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Prewriting

Choosing a Topic

- Who will be your audience:
  - other people your age?
  - family members?
  - a friend?

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Prewriting

Choosing a Topic

What is the purpose of your personal narrative?

- to inform?
- to entertain?
- to explain?
- to reveal an important side of yourself?

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Prewriting

Choosing a Topic

- How will you publish your personal narrative:
  - as a performance?
  - in print with illustrations?
  - as part of a web page on the Internet?

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Prewriting

Ideas for personal narratives

- What story would you tell at a campfire about experiences that you have had?
- What is the most memorable thing you have done lately?
- What would be "an event that changed your life"?

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Prewriting

Organizing and Planning

- Write *Beginning, Middle* and *End* as headings.
- Under each heading list the events and details that belong in this heading.
- Make sure the events relate back to the main topic.

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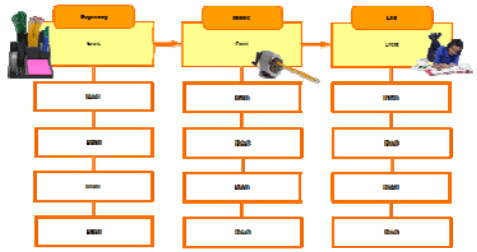
Prewriting

Organizing and Planning



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Drafting

Writing a Good Beginning

- A personal narrative needs a good beginning to grab the reader's attention and make them want to read more.
- Stimulate the reader's interest.
- Make the reader want to find out more.

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Drafting

Keeping to the Focus

- Determine what the main focus of the personal narrative is.
- Relate all events, details, and descriptions to the main focus.
- Delete all items that do not relate to the main focus.

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Revising

Varying Sentences

- Declarative sentences
  - make a statement
- Interrogative sentences
  - ask a question
- Imperative sentences
  - make a command
- Exclamatory sentences
  - strongly declare

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Proofreading

Checking your work

- Capitalization
  - Is the first word of every sentence capitalized?
  - Did you capitalize the names of people and places?
- Punctuation
  - Does each sentence end with a punctuation mark?
  - Did you put apostrophe's around the dialogue?
- Spelling
  - Did you double check your spelling?

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Publishing and Evaluating

Student Self-Assessment

- What was your favorite part of your personal narrative?
- Did the beginning grab the reader's attention?
- Did all of the events, details, and descriptions relate to the main point?

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Publishing and Evaluating

Student Self-Assessment

- Did this have a lively style that was fast-paced, interesting and easy to read?
- Did you meet the goals you set out to meet?
- What would you change if you wrote it over again?

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