**NARRATIVE ESSAY TECHNIQUES:**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ written in first person ( I)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ focuses on a single event rather than spans an entire lifetime or several years.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hyperbole

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ dialogue – exact words/conversation. Be sure to follow the rules for

 punctuating and paragraphing dialogue.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your thoughts – use italics or “” to indicate

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ colour and description - **relevant** details add imagery. Don’t add your breakfast menu unless it serves a purpose /is relevant to the story.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ figurative devices – metaphor/simile/sound devices

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ specific details and vocabulary – Don’t use vocabulary that doesn’t

sound like you. We are trying to create a genuine voice that sounds like you.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ include emotions and reactions

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ flashback

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ punctuation and font

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **SHOW DON’T TELL** – Avoid **telling** us a character’s reaction (ie. He was mad.) **Show** us with detail (ie. He pounded the dashboard and shook his fist.)

Hint: an easy way to see if you’re telling not showing is to look for all ‘is’ or ‘was’ statements. Do they tell us or show us the emotion?

**STRUCTURE OF A NARRATIVE ESSAY**

INTRODUCTION:

Hook?

General background the reader needs to know.

Thesis?



BODY:

This is the actual story. Did you use interesting details and tell the story clearly?

REFLECTION:

What do you think of the incident now?

Does it teach us any larger lesson or theme?

Additional food for thought