

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

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?

My Revisions: I make sure that...

- My narrative is a story written in first person.
- I have a title that fits the story.
- I have a short hook and a 3-4 sentence introduction that includes words from the prompt (in this case – imagination.
- My story has a beginning, middle and end in separate paragraphs.
- My conclusion contains my REFLECTION. What did I learn about myself? Why is this important and meaningful? OR what does this experience say about life or humans in general?
- I use the “show, don’t tell” style of writing. I have eliminated dead words and used vibrant verbs. I have used descriptive words.
- I have checked for sentence variety in my essay. The beginnings of the sentences are not all the same.
- I have checked my paragraphs. I start a new paragraph for a change of scene or time. I start a new paragraph when using dialogue.
- I have checked my grammar. There are no “me and my....” If I found one, I changed it to “My friends and I...”
- I have capitalized and punctuated my essay correctly. I checked for capitalization of proper nouns and dialogue punctuation.
- My essay has good transitions in the right places.
- I ran spell check, but I also re-read my essay looking for correct spellings. (are/our, their/they’re/there, to/ too, were/where, etc.)
- My reflection paragraph clearly shows that I have answered the question and tells what I have learned about myself and life.