



Narrative Paragraph



Assignment

- Write a narrative paragraph that tells a story about something that happened to you. It must be true.
- Pick one of the topics that is listed on the right and write an interesting and well-thought out paragraph of *at least 3/4 page single spaced.*
- *Pick a topic that is **MEANINGFUL** and has some **SIGNIFICANCE** to you.*
- Writing about a regular day at the PNE isn't very exciting, but writing about conquering your fear to go on the roller coaster makes a good story.
- Start your paragraph when the event begins... don't give the reader too much information. We don't need to know how long it took to get to Mexico, but rather you tell us about an amazing experience in Mexico.

Topics...

- **A time you learned a lesson**
- **A time you were afraid**
- **An embarrassing moment**
- **A time you felt "grown-up"**
- **Your proudest moment**
- **A time you got into a lot of trouble**
- **Your scariest moment**
- **A memorable day with a relative**
- **A time you conquered a fear**
- **Your own idea....**

"Organizing is what you do before you do something, so that when you do it, it's not all mixed up."
Winnie-The-Pooh



Paragraph Criteria

- Be at least 3/4 page single spaced in blue / black ink or typed
- Have an interesting title, not "My Narrative Paragraph"
- Must have a catchy opening sentence -not "One Time at Band Camp...."
- Must be about something meaningful / significant
- Must be spellchecked and edited—use a computer for help.
- Must have a concluding sentence
- Brainstorming, **EDITED** rough copy and good copy must be handed in before I will mark it.
- Hand in your paragraph on time please.

Marking Criteria

- If your paragraph is missing any of the criteria you will be asked to rewrite it and resubmit it for marks.
- Paragraphs will be marked using the writing rubric on the back. (20 marks)



Narrative Paragraph

Editing Workshop (check if correct)

- Is the paragraph indented? _____
- Is there an interesting title? _____
- Does the first sentence catch your attention? _____
- Are there details about *what happened*? _____
- Are there details on *why it happened*? _____
- Are there details on *why it is important*? _____
- Are there interesting and vivid verbs? _____
- Are there details on where / when it happened? _____
- Are all the words spelled correctly? (Circle errors) _____
- Do all the sentences relate to the main idea? _____
- Are the sentences varied in length? _____
- Do the sentences start with different words? _____

Comments:



	Not Quite Yet (Not yet within expectations) 2 marks	Good Start (Minimally Meets Expectations) 3 marks	You did it! (Meets Expectations) 4 marks	Wow! (Exceeds expectations) 5 marks
Content - ideas and information - use of detail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> presents some ideas; may be illogical or inappropriate poorly connected ideas Missing key details 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> presents a series of related ideas generally accurate details and explanations Some parts may not link to the main idea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a clear purpose Builds to a climax tries to deal with complex ideas related details, some thoughtfulness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a purpose, tried to deal with complex issues Builds to a climax Engaging details and explanations; gives thought, reflection
Style clarity, variety, impact of words and sentences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sentences are short and choppy or long and awkward basic, simple language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> some sentence variety; uses complex sentences everyday, conversational language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> variety of sentence types and lengths language is clear, appropriate, and varied 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> flows smoothly; varies sentence types and lengths effectively language is clear and varied and mature
Form - beginning -organization, transitions - end	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little to no introduction, assumes reader knows the topic may shift abruptly from one idea to another Little / no conclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic introduction, explains the situation Ideas are together but may be listed rather than developed Weak conclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interesting introduction logical sequence; transitions connect ideas clearly Logical conclusion, may be predictable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attempts an interesting introduction Smooth and logical sequence and transitions Creative and engaging conclusion
Conventions -sentences, grammar, spelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> frequent errors in simple words or sentences frequent run-ons and fragments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> some noticeable errors in basic words and sentences some run-ons or fragments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> may be some noticeable errors in difficult language most sentences are correct; some errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> occasional errors when writer takes risks occasional errors in complicated sentences



Narrative Paragraph Brainstorming



*** Remember—This sheet MUST be handed in with your final paragraph.**

What Happened??

Why / How Did it Happen??

Why Is This Event Important To You? Why is it significant?

When / Where Did it Happen?

Title / Catchy Opening Sentence Ideas



Narrative Paragraph Example



- Remember that a narrative paragraph tells a story that is meaningful and significant. A paragraph about a trip to the beach would be boring, but writing a paragraph about your first time at the beach and why it was so important to you would be better.
- Pick one topic for your paragraph as more topics or a longer story would need more than one paragraph. I've included an example NARRATIVE paragraph for you to read.
- Notice that the paragraph does not begin with "Once upon a time", "One time at..." or "It was Christmas Day, the first day of grade 5..." . Think of a way to grab the reader's attention and draw them in to your writing. You don't need to tell us what you're going to write about... just start writing.

Totem Pole

By A. Williams



My grandparent's house was a magical place for me when I was a little girl. There was an amazing loft where I could spy down on my brothers, a smelly chicken coop to visit every morning to check for fresh eggs, a wonderful swing in a gigantic, old maple tree and a tall, black totem pole on the front steps. The totem pole had always fascinated me and I loved to stare into the blank eyes of the thunderbird at the top and wonder what he was thinking. I enjoyed running my small hands over the chiseled black wood and marveling that the carver had included details such as eyes, wings and even feathers. However, it was the thunderbird's nose that intrigued me the most. His long black beak stuck out from the totem pole and had two carved nostrils at the curved end. The nostrils were curious black holes that tempted me. One day I cautiously poked my finger into the thunderbird's nostril, not sure how far it would go. I suddenly felt a sharp sting and I screamed as I yanked my finger out. Not only had I poked my finger into the nose of the thunderbird, but also right into the back end of a bumble bee. Whenever I see the stately totem, now on my parents' front steps, I remember what a painful and embarrassing way it was for me to learn to "keep my fingers to myself".

1. What is another way the author could have begun the paragraph?

2. Notice how the paragraph builds to a climax. What sentence is the climax or high point of interest in the story? _____
3. Choose three words from the paragraph that you think were helpful in expressing or explaining an idea.

4. Why were these words helpful? _____



My Trip to Maui



One time my family and I went to Maui. We went because it was spring break and my dad was able to take some time off. My mom told me we were going one day at dinner. I screamed, I was so excited. So we packed our bags, drove to the Airport and got on the plane. It was fun going on the plane because I'd never been on one before. Then we watched a movie on the plane—it was “pirates of the Caribbean”. Then we landed on Maui picked up our rental car and drove to our hotel. Our hotel was real nice. It had a pool, shops, a nice beach and a cute lifeguard. We did lots of fun things on Maui. It was my first time going to the tropics, which I really love. We drove to Hana, snorkeled and went to the beach everyday. One day I almost drowned when I got caught in a riptide and in some big waves. It is scary. Then we came home and the plane is delayed in Honolulu. Then we had to go to school and I was sad. I love Maui, it was the best vacation ever of my life, it was great, you should go.

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