

Language Arts — 8th-Grade Writing Assignment

Personal Narrative

- Objective:** Students will write a personal narrative, using all plot elements. (Standards W2.1)
- Prompt 1:** Eleanor Roosevelt once said, “You must do the thing you think you cannot do.” Write a narrative about a time when you did something you thought you could not do.
- Prompt 2:** Think about a time when something unexpected happened. Write a narrative in which you tell about an unexpected event that happened to you or someone you know.
- Prompt 3:** Think about a time when you faced a difficult challenge. Write a narrative in which you tell about the challenge, including how you met the challenge and what you learned.

Assignment: Because your composition is a narrative, it must have the elements of a narrative, including setting, plot, conflict, climax, resolution, etc. in order to receive a passing grade. Be sure to include specific details so that a reader can follow your story. NO exceptions. Your story will be NO LESS than 400 words: remember, the state standard is 500 to 700 words.

When you are writing your story, be sure to use whatever literary devices with which you are familiar; use vivid language, and make sure you eliminate “dead” words.

This assignment is due on _____ .

Quotes: You are required to use at least two direct quotes in your narrative, but make sure you use quotes properly. If you are not sure how to use quotes, ask the teacher, look it up in the Holt Handbook, or review some of the stories in the Holt Literature and Language Arts textbook, where you will find numerous easy-to-understand examples.

Process: (1) Gather information and/or brainstorm, (2) pre-write, (3) write your rough draft, (4) do multiple revisions, and (5) publish. It might also be helpful to ask your peers to read your story: if they cannot follow what you have written, you likely have a problem that needs to be fixed. *Note: ALL steps are required. You will be required to turn in evidence of having completed each step in order to receive a passing grade.*

Specs:

- Format:** Standard Narrative
- Margins:** 1 inch, top, bottom, left, right
- Alignment:** Left or fully justified
- Indents:** .5 inches for paragraphs
- Line Spacing:** 1.5 or double
- Font:** Times New Roman, Arial; 12-pt.
- Title:** YES
- Turn in all parts of process:** YES

- Citations Page:** NO
- Name, period, date placement:** Upper right corner
- Name, period, date line spacing:** Single
- Illustrations / pictures:** Not required
- Extra space between paragraphs:** NO
- Save copies on your flash drive:** YES
- Title Specs:** Assigned fonts; 14- or 16-pt.; centered
- Title Note:** 1 or 2 blank lines between title and body
- How to turn in:** Hard copies only