

Prewriting: Choose and Evaluate an Experience

DIRECTIONS Use the graphic organizer below to help you choose and evaluate an experience.

- In the first column, list a few experiences you might write about.
- Evaluate your favorite experience by answering the questions. If you cannot answer all the questions about this experience, try the next one on your list.

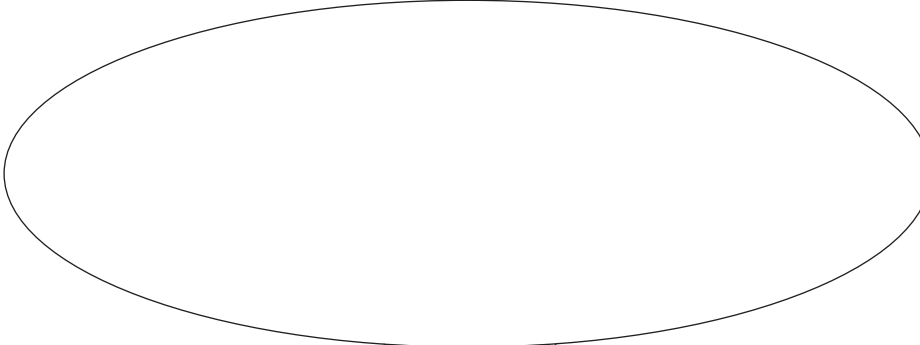
EXPERIENCE:	STEP 1: How would you summarize what happened in a sentence or two?	STEP 2: What events are part of the experience? In what order did they happen?	STEP 3: What is the significance of the experience?	STEP 4: Will you be comfortable sharing this experience with others? What might they learn from you?
1.				
2.				
3.				

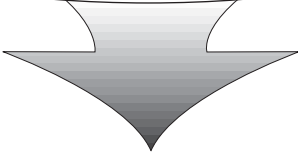
Prewriting: Think About Purpose and Audience

DIRECTIONS Use the graphic organizer below to help you identify an appropriate audience for the experience you chose in **Practice and Apply 1**.

- List several different possible audiences.
- Choose one audience with whom you are comfortable sharing this experience.

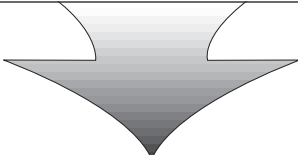
EXPERIENCE



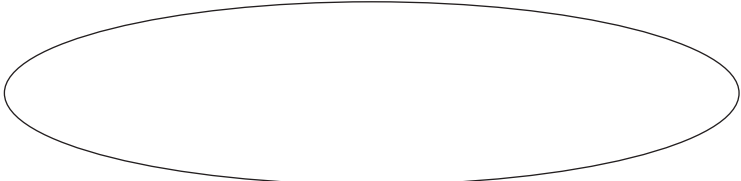


POSSIBLE AUDIENCES

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.



AUDIENCE I AM COMFORTABLE WITH



Prewriting: Recall and Arrange Details

DIRECTIONS Use the chart or time line below to list details about your experience in chronological order. Remember to include specific actions, sensory details, dialogue, physical descriptions, background information, and your thoughts and feelings.

▶ Time	▶ Event	▶ Details

Choosing Relevant Details

DIRECTIONS Use the chart below to identify relevant and irrelevant details in the following paragraph.

It Was Worth It!

Campaigning for eighth-grade vice-president was a lot of work. My friends volunteered to be my campaign staff. They helped me create posters and buttons. No one else could deliver my campaign speech in assembly, though. My father belongs to a club where the members give speeches. I practiced my speech and gestures in front of the bathroom mirror. I even

made Queenie, our dog, listen to my speech. We have had that dog since I was in third grade, and she understands everything I say. Standing before the combined eighth-grade classes, I was calmer than I had expected to be. The school auditorium seats three hundred people. When I won the election the next day, I knew all the time and effort had been worth it.

<p>▶ Main idea</p>	
<p>▶ Relevant details</p>	<p>▶ Irrelevant details</p>

Writing: Draft Your Personal Narrative

DIRECTIONS Complete the graphic organizer below, and use it to help you write your first draft. Use additional paper if necessary.

INTRODUCTION

▶ What interesting beginning will you use to grab your readers' attention?

▶ What details will you use to set the scene?

BODY

▶ What happened first?	▶ What happened next?	▶ What happened after that?
Details about this event:	Details about this event:	Details about this event:

CONCLUSION

▶ How did this experience change you, or what did it teach you?

Choosing Precise Words

DIRECTIONS Revise the following passage by replacing the underlined vague words with more precise language.

- Use a thesaurus or dictionary as needed to help you identify more precise language.
- After you complete this exercise, revise your personal narrative by replacing vague words with more precise language as directed in **Practice and Apply 5**.

After three years of piano lessons, I was finally becoming a decent musician.

I had no idea that I would be sorry for my decision until I got to middle school.

I watched with envy as my best friends, who played other instruments, signed up for band.

It took awhile, but I finally got my parents to let me take clarinet lessons and join the band. Although I was a few years behind the other players, I learned quickly. I could already understand music, and I really wanted to be in the band.

What my friends had not told me was how hard it was to play an instrument and walk in formation at the same time—stepping in time to the music and following the leader’s precise mapping. I was not particularly good at following directions and often ended up alone with my clarinet at the edge of the sports field. All the hours of practice were worth it, though. At the first football game I managed to stay in the right place at the right time. As I recall, I even hit some of the right notes!

Revising: Personal Narrative

DIRECTIONS Use the chart below to help you improve your personal narrative.

QUESTIONS	DO THIS	CHANGES YOU MADE
1. Does the beginning of the narrative grab the reader's attention and set the scene with details?	<input type="checkbox"/> Put stars next to interesting quotations or surprising statements. <input type="checkbox"/> Circle details that show when and where the experience happened.	
2. Is the point of view consistent throughout the narrative?	<input type="checkbox"/> Draw a box around third-person pronouns such as <i>they</i> , <i>she</i> , and <i>himself</i> .	
3. Are the events in chronological order?	<input type="checkbox"/> Number the events as they appear in the paper. Compare the numbered events to the actual order of events.	
4. Does the narrative include details that make the people, places, and events seem real?	<input type="checkbox"/> Highlight sensory details and dialogue in the paper. <input type="checkbox"/> In the margin, note to which senses the sensory details appeal.	
5. Have you included thoughts and feelings in the narrative?	<input type="checkbox"/> Put a check mark next to any statement of feelings or thoughts.	
6. In the conclusion, do you state why the experience is meaningful?	<input type="checkbox"/> Underline the statement of why the experience is meaningful.	

Revising Practice: Personal Narrative

DIRECTIONS Below is the beginning of a personal narrative.

- Revise the narrative to make it more effective, using the guidelines on page 599.
- Look for problems with the introduction, with thoughts and feelings, and with details.

Building a float for the Fourth of July parade last summer was fun. Devon created a mock-up of our float, which would include several of the service club members demonstrating various projects. For several weeks we met in a barn and constructed a chicken-wire frame on an old hay wagon. After we finished the frame, we began stuffing the openings with different colored paper tissues. It was a big job. The morning of the parade was cloudy, and we knew that if it rained, our float would look like it had melted. The sun came out just before the band began playing, and a tractor pulled our float onto Main Street.

Revising: Evaluate Personal Narratives

DIRECTIONS Use the following questions to evaluate your personal narrative or that of one of your classmates.

- Answer the questions.
- Rate the parts of the narrative. The lowest score is 1, and the highest is 4.
- Make at least three suggestions for improving the narrative.

<p>1. How does the beginning of the narrative grab the reader’s attention and set the scene with details?</p>	<p>Rating 1 2 3 4</p> <p>Suggestion:</p>
<p>2. What point of view is used in the narrative? Is it used consistently?</p>	<p>Rating 1 2 3 4</p> <p>Suggestion:</p>
<p>3. What order do events follow? Which events are not in chronological order?</p>	<p>Rating 1 2 3 4</p> <p>Suggestion:</p>
<p>4. What details does the writer include to make the people, places, and events seem real?</p>	<p>Rating 1 2 3 4</p> <p>Suggestion:</p>
<p>5. What thoughts and feelings does the writer include?</p>	<p>Rating 1 2 3 4</p> <p>Suggestion:</p>
<p>6. Why is the experience meaningful to the writer?</p>	<p>Rating 1 2 3 4</p> <p>Suggestion:</p>

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Proofreading: Using and Punctuating Dialogue

DIRECTIONS Proofread the following passages.

- Add quotation marks and correct capitalization where necessary.
 - After you have completed this exercise, proofread your personal narrative for errors in punctuating dialogue as directed in **Practice and Apply 6**.
-

PASSAGE A How did the basketball game go last Saturday? Jeff asked when I got

on the bus the next morning.

It was incredibly exciting! I replied. in addition to the freethrow points,
I made two baskets.

What was the final score?

We won by four points, 52 to 48.

If we keep that up, Jeff responded, we'll make it to the state championships.

PASSAGE B Why not come visit us in Philadelphia for the Fourth of July? my

cousin suggested two summers ago.

I would love to! I said. Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell are on my
list of places to see.

Did you know, he asked, that I did a social studies project this year on
historical sites in Philadelphia?

You'll be a great tour guide, then, I told him.

Talk to your parents right away, he urged, so that we can plan your visit.