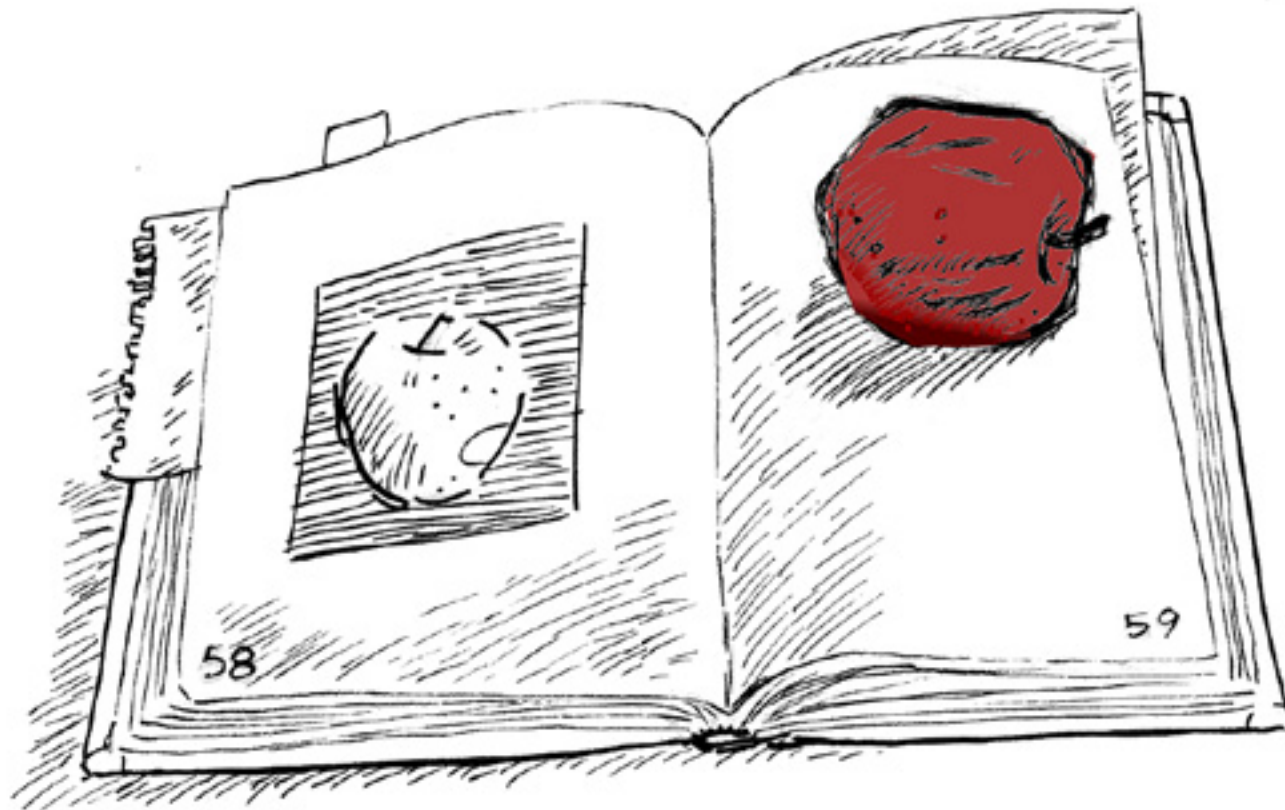


# Narration & Description Essays

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# *Narration Pattern*

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**In simplest, basic terms, Narrative writing tells a story.**

- However, in these essays, the narrative writing shows personal reflections or explores the author's values told as a story.
- A narrative essay relates specific personal events. The author remembers
  - > his or her past, *or*
  - > a memorable person from his or her past *or*
  - > event from the past *or*
  - > even observations on the present, in comparison to the past.
- Most often told in first person, with a casual style and tone.  
Occasional slang or colloquial phrases are okay, but avoid using clichés.
- An autobiography is considered a Narrative form.

# *Narration Pattern*

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## **Five Narrative Essays Elements for Successful Projects**

- Make a point. A strong declaration of a topic is necessary.

View the topic sentence as a declaration of your intentions:

> *My favorite childhood memory is...*

- The topic sentence acts as an introduction which indicates what kind of narration will be used:

> an event, recurring activity *or*

> a personal experience/memory, *or*

> a general observation about life

# *Narration Pattern*

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- The opening paragraph contains a topic “point” or declaration of theme for the reader. This is essential. This is a simple form of a thesis.
- The author describes people, scenes, or events in strong detail.  
**Sensory impressions** are helpful because they connect the audience to the specific memory or event itself. Mention any or all of the five senses as often as possible. It is also okay to include dialogue, as long proper punctuation rules are followed.
- The paper leads the reader to reflect on the overall human experience. To achieve this it is best to provide a lesson that was gained from the event. Connection between reader and writer is vital in this type of informal writing.

# *Narration Pattern*

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## **Principles for narrative writing:**

- Involve readers in the story. It is much more interesting to actually recreate the incident for readers, slowly revealing details, rather than to simply tell the basic plot in the opening sentences.
- **Do not begin with the pronoun *I*. *Fight the impulse as much as you can!***
- This immediately distances the reader from the event.  
In other words, the situation or memory is more important than the writer.
- Think in terms of a résumé. These types of documents restrict the I-voice.

# *Narration Pattern*

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**As a result, fictional literary devices are expected:**

- strong sense of a plot, with detailed settings and specific characters
- a climatic point or decisive turning point in the plot
- closure— provide a lesson which was learned from the experience
- show increasing **conflicts**

# *Types of Conflict*

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All stories deal with **conflicts** and secondary-conflicts in one fashion or another:

- human vs nature
- human vs human
- human vs supernatural *or* gods/God/ Fate
- human vs self
- human vs technology
- *Be able to identify these as they appear in your readings.*

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- human vs technology  
(computers / industrialism / corporations)
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