Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Personal Narrative**

English 8, Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Prewriting: Choose a Topic**

**Directions**: Use the graphic organizer below to help you choose an experience.

* At the top of the chart, list a few experiences you might write about.
* Decide on your favorite experience by answering the questions. If you cannot answer all the questions about an experience, try the next one on your list.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Experience 1** | **Experience 2** | **Experience 3** |
| What conflict or surprise does this experience contain? |  |  |  |
| What does this experience reveal about my personality? |  |  |  |
| Am I willing to share my thoughts about this experience with readers? |  |  |  |
| The experience I’ve chosen and why: | | | |

**Drafting: Getting Started**

**Directions**: Use the chart below to list details about your experience in chronological order. Use questions (who, what, when, where, why, how) to recall details from the experience. Remember to include vivid, specific details.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time and/or Order of Events** | **Event** | **Details** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**Drafting: Use Dialogue**

**Directions**: In your story you should include dialogue, the words that people speak. Punctuate dialogue correcting so your reader can tell the dialogue from the rest of the story. Make sure that you start a new paragraph and indent for each new speaker (character) within your story.

**Rule One:** *Use quotation marks to enclose a person’s exact words.*

**Incorrect:** We’ll hide in Danny’s yard until he comes home he whispered.

**Correct:** “We’ll hide in Danny’s yard until he comes home,” he whispered.

**Rule Two:** *A direct quotation begins with a capital letter. Commas, a question mark, or an exclamation point can separate the dialogue from the rest of the sentence.*

**Example:** “I’m drenched!” she shouted.

**Rule Three:** *When the expression identifying the speaker interrupts a quotation, commas set off the expression. The quotation then continues with a small letter.*

**Example:** “Sonya,” Rafael went on, “you hide by the controls for the sprinklers.”

**Rule Four:** *A period or comma always goes inside the closing quotation marks.*

**Examples: “**Here, puppy. Nice puppy,” he called, trying not to laugh.

Mrs. Hernandez said, “Nice job watering the lawn.”

**Directions:** *Punctuate the dialogue in each of the following sentences.*

1. Where were you yesterday asked Melissa
2. I’m sorry said Jack I had to stay home from school because I had a cold.
3. Too bad Melissa said because you missed the tryouts for the school play.
4. Jack signed I know I guess I’ll have to wait until next year.
5. Why don’t you go talk with Mr. Kassel suggested Melissa.

**Alternatives to “HE SAID / SHE SAID”**

Dialogue can bring a story to life, or it can put the reader to sleep. Here are lively alternatives to old and boring “he said/she said” exchanges. Use these vocal verbs in place of “said” or use the vocal adverbs to describe just how “he said/she said.” Working with dialogue is a simple but very effective way to improve your storytelling.

Dialogue is not simply texting someone else, it’s the art of verbally conversing with another human being. Within short stories, dialogue plays an important role in helping the reader understand what is going on in the story. Creating images through dialogue to help the audience visualize the text.

**Directions**: Use these vocab verbs and adverbs to liven up your writing or come up with your own! *Note: please do not use the word if you do not know what it means.*

**Vocal Adverbs**

adamantly

admiringly

adoringly

angrily

anxiously

arrogantly

bashfully

casually

cautiously

cheerfully

clearly

cowardly

coyly

curiously

cynically

decisively

defensively

defiantly

dramatically

energetically

fiendishly

flatly

formally

gleefully

gloomily

happily

harshly

hysterically

jealously

joyfully

loudly

lovingly

**Vocal Adverbs**

meanly

meekly

mysteriously

nervously

offensively

off-handedly

pensively

proudly

questioningly

quickly

quizzically

rapidly

sadly

sarcastically

selfishly

serenely

seriously

sheepishly

shyly

sleepily

softly

sternly

stoically

stubbornly

sullenly

tauntingly

teasingly

tenderly

thankfully

unexpectedly

unhappily

wisely

**Vocal Verbs**

added

admitted

advised

agreed

announced

answered

argued

asked

asserted

began

bellowed

blurted

called

cautioned

claimed

commented

complained

conceded

concluded

confessed

continued

cried

demanded

exclaimed

explained

gasped

groaned

insisted

interrupted

joked

lied

mentioned

moaned

**Vocal Verbs**

mumbled

uttered

notes

objected

overserved

ordered

quipped

remarked

replied

reported

responded

said

screamed

shouted

snapped

sobbed

stated

swore

taunted

teased

told

vowed

warned

whined

whispered

yelled



**Directions**: Use the graphic organizers below to help you recall dialogue.

* Keep in mind that dialogue should be natural, reflecting how the speakers really talk.
* In your personal narrative you must include a minimum of three sets of dialogue.

**Narrative Event:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Speaker’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Speaker’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Event:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Speaker’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Speaker’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Event:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Speaker’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Speaker’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Drafting: Personal Narrative**

**Directions**: Complete the graphic organizer below, and use it to help you write/type your first draft.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Introduction** | What interesting beginning will you use to grab your reader’s attention?  What details will you use to set the scene? | | |
| **Body** | What happened first? | What happened next? | What happened last? |
| Details about the beginning: | Details about the middle: | Details about the end: |
| **Conclusion** | What special meaning does this experience have for you? | | |

**Drafting: Use Descriptive Language**

Just like dialogue, descriptive language can bring life to your story or put your reader to sleep. Make sure to include descriptive language throughout your personal narrative so the reader can visualize (picture in their head) the details you remember from the experience.

You can include many of these descriptive words to liven up your writing or come up with your own! *Note: please do not use the word if you do not know what it means.* Words are grouped by sense of smell/taste, hearing, touch and sight. Highlight words that you plan to use in your writing.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Smell/Taste** | **Smell/Taste** | **Hearing** | **Hearing** | **Hearing** | **Touch** |
| acidic | rancid | babble | gulp | sizzle | bristly |
| aromatic | rank | bang | gurgle | slam | bumpy |
| biting | raw | bark | harmonious | slap | burning |
| bitter | reeking | bawled | hiss | slurp | cold |
| bittersweet | rich | bellow | hoot | smash | cool |
| bland | ripe | blare | howl | snap | cottony |
| brackish | rotten | blatant | hum | snarl | crisp |
| briny | salty | bleat | hush | snort | damp |
| burnt | savory | bluster | inaudible | speak | dry |
| buttery | sharp | boom | jangle | speechless | dull |
| crisp | sickly | brawl | jingle | squawk | elastic |
| damp | sour | bray | knock | stammer | feathery |
| dank | spicy | bump | laugh | stamp | fleshy |
| dry | spoiled | buzz | melody | still | fragile |
| earthy | stench | chatter | mumble | stomp | frosty |
| fishy | stinky | cheer | murmur | storm | furry |
| flavorful | stuffy | chime | musical | strum | fuzzy |
| flowery | succulent | chirp | mute | stutter | gnarled |
| foul | sugary | chortle | mutter | swish | gritty |
| fragrant | sweet | chuckle | noise | talk | hairy |
| fresh | syrupy | clamor | pandemonium | tap | hot |
| fruity | tangy | clap | patter | thud | icy |
| funky | tart | clash | peep | thunder | knobbed |
| gamy | tasteless | clink | piercing | thunk | knotted |
| gaseous | tempting | crackle | ping | tinkle | leathery |
| gingery | unripe | crash | plop | trill | limp |
| gross | vinegary | croak | pop | twang | lukewarm |
| heady | zesty | croon | prattle | twitter | lumpy |
| hearty | zingy | crow | racket | wail | mushy |
| hot |  | crunch | rage | warble | oily |
| juicy |  | cry | rap | whack | prickly |
| medicinal |  | deafening | rasp | whimper | puffy |
| mellow |  | discord | rattle | whine | pulpy |
| mildewy |  | drawl | ring | whir | ribbed |
| moldy |  | drone | riot | whisper | rough |
| musky |  | earsplitting | roar | whistle | rubbery |
| musty |  | explode | rowdy | yell | sandy |
| nasty |  | faint | rumble | yodel | satiny |
| oily |  | fizz | rustle | zing | sharp |
| overripe |  | giggle | scream |  | silky |
| peppery |  | grate | screech |  | slimy |
| perfumed |  | grind | shout |  | slippery |
| piney |  | groan | sigh |  | smooth |
| pungent |  | growl | silence |  | soft |
| Image result for descriptive wordsputrid |  | guffaw | sing |  | spongy |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Touch** | **Sight** | **Sight** | **Sight** | **Sight** | **Sight** |
| steamy | almond | dash | kelly | ram | square |
| sticky | angular | dazzling | lacy | raspberry | steel |
| tender | apple | decorative | large | rectangular | streak |
| tepid | aqua | dive | lavender | red | striped |
| thick | arrogant | dotted | lean | regal | strong |
| thin | ashen | drab | lemon | rip | sturdy |
| tough | azure | drily | lilac | robust | swat |
| velvety | beautiful | drive | lively | rose | swerve |
| warm | black | drop | long | round | swing |
| waxy | blazing | ebony | loose | ruby | swollen |
| wet | blue | elegant | lopsided | ruffled | swoop |
| woolly | bolt | emerald | lumpy | run | tall |
|  | bounce | energetic | magenta | rush | tapered |
|  | bright | exotic | mahogany | rust | thin |
|  | broken | fast | maroon | sail | tied |
|  | bronze | fat | massive | salmon | tiny |
|  | brown | fiery | milky | sandy | tired |
|  | bruised | flared | miniature | sapphire | topaz |
|  | buff | flashy | mint | scamper | transparent |
|  | butter | flat | mottled | scramble | triangular |
|  | celery | flick | muddy | scrubbed | trot |
|  | charcoal | flowery | muscular | shabby | turquoise |
|  | chase | fly | mustard | shadowy | twiggy |
|  | cheap | fragile | narrow | shapeless | ugly |
|  | cherry | freckled | nervous | sheer | used |
|  | chocolate | fresh | old | shimmering | violet |
|  | chubby | frightened | olive | short | walnut |
|  | clean | gallop | opaque | shove | wavy |
|  | clear | garnet | orange | showy | white |
|  | cluttered | gigantic | oval | shy | wide |
|  | cobalt | glazed | overloaded | sickly | winged |
|  | coffee | glossy | packed | silver | wiry |
|  | colorless | gold | page | skinny | worn |
|  | congested | green | peach | skip | wrinkled |
|  | copper | grimy | pearl | sky | yellow |
|  | coral | handsome | perky | small | young |
|  | cream | hazel | pink | smash | zip |
|  | crimped | healthy | platinum | snow | zoom |
|  | crimson | hollow | plum | sparkling |  |
|  | crinkled | hurry | plunge | speed |  |
|  | crooked | immense | porcelain | spin |  |
|  | crowded | ivory | pretty | split |  |
|  | curved | jammed | propel | spotted |  |
|  | dark | jeweled | purple | spring |  |
|  | dart | jutting |  | sprint |  |



**Drafting: Writing/Typing the Personal Narrative**

A few reminders before you start your first completed draft of the personal narrative:

1. Use Office 365 to type; log in, open a new word document, rename the title of the document
2. Use MLA format heading; name, teacher, class/period, due date
3. Use MLA format on the document; Times New Roman or Calibri, 11 or 12 point font, black ink, remove space after paragraph, double space entire document, left justified (except for the title)
4. Use the plan you created however; make sure to include dialogue and descriptive language.
5. When you are finished reading through the narrative, make any changes to noticeable mistakes. Then, print.

**Revising: Personal Narratives - Self**

**Directions**: Use the following questions to evaluate your personal narrative.

* 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.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1.** How does the beginning of the narrative grab the reader’s attention and set the scene with details? | **Rating**  1 2 3 4 | **Suggestions**: |
| **2.** Do the events follow chronological order? If not, which events are not in the correct order? | **Rating**  1 2 3 4 | **Suggestions**: |
| **3.** What details are included to make the people, places and events seem real? | **Rating**  1 2 3 4 | **Suggestions**: |
| **4.** What dialogue did you include? | **Rating**  1 2 3 4 | **Suggestions**: |
| **5.** Why is the experience meaningful to you? | **Rating**  1 2 3 4 | **Suggestions**: |

**Editing:** Class activity planned for the editing process. However, you can (and have others) look for errors in…

* Structure: entire narrative, paragraphs, sentences
* Word Usage: vocabulary that adds to the writing, don’t overuse/repeat words, check for spelling
* Punctuation: end marks, commas, dialogue, etc.

**Evaluating: Personal Narratives – Peer and Adult**

**Directions**: Use the chart below to help improve your personal narrative. Once you have a peer and an adult check your narrative, make changes to the draft.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions** | **Do This** | **Peer Initials** | **Adult Initials** |
| **1.** Does the introduction grab your attention and set the scene? | * Put **stars** next to interesting or surprising statements. * **Circle** details that show when and where the experience happened. |  |  |
| **2.** Are the events in chronological order? | * **Number** the events in the narrative. Check that this sequence reflects the actual order of events with the writer. |  |  |
| **3.** Do the details make people, places and events seem real? | * **Highlight** descriptive words and details. * In the margin, **note** which senses the details appeal to. |  |  |
| **4.** Is there dialogue included that helps explain thoughts and feelings? | * Put a **check mark** next to dialogue. |  |  |
| **5.** Does the conclusion reveal why the experience is meaningful to the writer? | * **Underline** the statement of why the experience is meaningful. |  |  |

**Publishing: Personal Narrative Final Draft**

* Using the information from this packet revise, edit, and evaluate your narrative. Make the necessary changes to improve your writing, then print your final draft.
* You MUST turn in the Personal Narrative Rubric, Rough Draft, and Final Draft.
* This packet will be handed in separately. However, note that parts of this packet will be scored:

EU 13: Writing Process – pages 1, 2, 6, 9

EU 16: Conventions – pages 3, 4, 5, 10

EU 17: Vocabulary – pages 7, 8, 9, 10

