

Name: _____

Date: _____ Period: _____

Personal Narrative Essay Outline

Title: _____

Introduction

Catch the reader's attention with an interesting opening sentence or two (hook). _____

Give a little background information about your topic. Set the scene, but do not begin telling the story yet. Try to create a mood. _____

Introduce your topic and the main idea (thesis statement) you want to communicate about your topic. (Was it scary? emotional? painful? life altering? Etc.) _____

Include answers to who, when, and where. (Tell how old you were, what grade you were in, where you were living, etc.) _____

Lead in to telling what happened, but don't tell the story. End this paragraph with a cliffhanger, perhaps, which will make the reader want to know more. _____

Body - Tell your story. Explain what happened. Tell it in the order in which it happened. Use chronological order. Guide the reader through the experience. Use "time" transition words and phrases to develop the sense of time and to connect ideas. Be sure to include your thoughts and feelings as you tell the story. Try to use specific nouns, vivid action verbs, and descriptive adjectives and adverbs in describing the experience and your thoughts and feelings. Make the experience come alive. Paint pictures in the reader's mind. Make us think and feel as you did.

Topic Sentence – Major Point: _____

Details/Evidences/Facts/Reasons: _____

Explain/Elaborate/Further Evidence: _____

Concluding Sentence: _____

Conclusion - Conclude your writing with a paragraph that summarizes your thoughts and feelings about the experience. This is a very important paragraph! It leaves the reader with the final impression of your experience and your writing. Begin with a strong topic sentence (thesis statement) that states your main idea about the experience. Include comments on the following questions to show why and how this experience was important in your life:

Why did this happen? (You may not know) How did it change you? _____

Does it continue to have an effect on you? _____

Why was it an important experience in your life? What did you learn from this experience? ____

How has it helped you grow and mature? _____

Summary Sentence (Restate Main Idea/Thesis): _____

Meaning of the experience for you- how did the experience change you or what it taught you: _____
