

Personal Narrative Prompt

Look at the picture below.



Each of us dream and work toward reaching personal goals.

Write a personal narrative about how you met your goal. Be sure to write in detail about your goal and describe what happened as you worked to achieve your goal.

Personal Narrative Planning Organizer **Sample for Guided Writing**

Who" and "what" Occasion of the story	Occasion or central idea Note: must meet demands of the prompt	At Canyon Lake
	Significant characters	My Aunt, Uncle, and I
Introduction	Set the stage	My aunt and uncle decided to invite me to Canyon Lake with them for Memorial Day.
	First event	As we rode around the lake in my Uncle's boat, I saw a couple people wake boarding.
Body	Second event	I knew that I wanted to master wake boarding while I was at Canyon Lake, so I set a goal for myself to at least try wake boarding before we had to go home.
	Third event	Naturally I was nervous, but my aunt and uncle urged me to get in the water so they could teach me.
	Fourth event	It was very hard to get the hang of it. I fell many times, but I knew I had to keep trying.
	Final outcome	In the end, I was able to actually get up and ride the wakes.
Closing	Parting Thought I was able to reach my goal, but I succeeded in much more by wake boarding for the rest of the day. Not one of us wanted to go home!	

Planning Guide

Personal Narrative

I. Introduction

- A. The occasion (idea, setting, series of happenings, or situation)
- B. Significant characters
- C. Set the stage for the story

II. Events*

- A. Identify the event
- B. Supporting details (usually in chronological order)**
- C. Reflection

III. Final outcome

- A. Restatement of the occasion
- B. Insight
- C. Parting thought

*There is no set number of events or details. Some events may close with a reflection.

**Some elaboration methods

Vivid language

Dialogue

Specific details

Very Dull Story without this!

I. Introduction

Occasion or CI: At Canyon Lake

Significant characters (SC): My Aunt, Uncle, and I
(hook)

Set the stage - My aunt and uncle decided to invite me to Canyon Lake with them for Memorial Day.

II. Body

1st Event - As we rode around the lake in my Uncle's boat, I saw a couple people wake boarding.

2nd Event - I knew that I wanted to master wake boarding while I was at Canyon Lake, so I set a goal for myself to at least try wake boarding before we had to go home.

3rd Event - Naturally I was nervous, but my aunt and uncle urged me to get in the water so they could teach me.

4th Event - It was very hard to get the hang of it. I fell many times, but I knew I had to keep trying.

III. Closing

Final outcome: In the end, I was able to actually get up and ride the wakes.

Parting thought - I was able to reach my goal, but I succeeded in much more by wake boarding for the rest of the day. Not one of us wanted to go home!

Collaborative Interactive Writing Activity

Teacher directions - cut apart each part of the writing plan.

- Provide each group a part of the essay.
- Draft each paragraph using the plan provided.



Add a meaningful hook or lead to grab your reader's attention. Use this "set the stage" idea or develop one with a similar idea.

I. Introduction

CI - At Canyon Lake

Set the stage - My aunt and uncle decided to invite me to Canyon Lake with them for Memorial Day.

Write a topic sentence with the MI or event. Then add sentences with the supporting details.

II. Body

1st Event- As we rode around the lake in my Uncle's boat, I saw a couple people wake boarding.

- You may add other supporting details. Use detail moves to make your writing interesting and engaging.

Write a topic sentence with the MI or event. Then add sentences with the supporting details.

2nd Event- I knew that I wanted to master wake boarding while I was at Canyon Lake, so I set a goal for myself to at least try wake boarding before we had to go home.

- You may add other supporting details. Use detail moves to make your writing interesting and engaging.

Write a topic sentence with the MI or event. Then add sentences with the supporting details.

3rd Event- Naturally I was nervous, but my aunt and uncle urged me to get in the water so they could teach me.

- You may add other supporting details. Use detail moves to make your writing interesting and engaging.

Write a topic sentence with the MI or event. Then add sentences with the supporting details.

4th Event- It was very hard to get the hang of it. I fell many times, but I knew I had to keep trying.

- You may add other supporting details. Use detail moves to make your writing interesting and engaging.

Use the restated occasion or develop one with fresh new words. Use the parting thought or develop a new one to leave your audience with a thoughtful closing.

III. Closing

Final outcome: In the end, I was able to actually get up and ride the wakes.

Parting thought - I was able to reach my goal, but I succeeded in much more by wake boarding for the rest of the day. Not one of us wanted to go home!

Planning Organizer
Personal Narrative

Occasion	
Significant characters	
Set the stage	
First event	
Second event	
Third event	
Fourth event	
Final outcome	

Revision Checklist

Personal Narrative

Organization and Progression

Development of ideas**

Occasion _____	Details that Describe	Action Details	Persuasive Details	Details that Inform	Dialogue Details
Significant characters _____	State the obvious	Act and think	If...then	State the opposite side	“Dialogue” with tags
Set the stage _____	Just like that Simile and metaphors	But, why???	Take the opposite side	What’s next?	Instead of <i>said</i>
First event* _____	Action, action, action clues	Numbers date/time/value	Good insightful question(s)	High interest then what’s next	Talking and thinking
Identify _____	In the middle	Location transition	Imagine this...	Positive sweet with a negative sour	Action and words
Support _____	Zoom in & describe	Adverb comma	It’s complicated and complex	For the first time ever...	Tell me about it
Reflection _____	Intentional repetition	Ing phrases present participles	Now...back then	Define it	
Second event _____	Pop culture reference	“Ed” phrases	We...statements of unity	AKS – proper nouns	
Identify _____	Personification People characteristics	Onomatopoeia (sound)	Call to action	In other words (restatement)	
Support _____	Set the stage		Hyperbole! Exaggerate!	Important and significant	
Reflection _____	I, we, they think			Love, love, love	
Final outcome _____				Historical reference	
Occasion _____					
Insight _____					
Parting thought _____					

Vivid language**

Dialogue

Specific details

Sentence Variations

Compound sentence with correct comma usage before the **FANBOYS** _____

Complex sentences with correct comma, based on subordinate conjunction placement _____

Bonus! Compound complex sentences with correct comma usage _____

The story should include:

_____ An introduction that focuses attention on the subject and prepares the reader for what is to follow

_____ Supporting details in chronological order

_____ Transitions to give paragraphs coherence

_____ Conclusion that restates the occasion in fresh words and states an insight or a lesson learned from the experience

*No set number of events

**Use tally marks each time vivid language, dialogue and specific details are used.

