

## Personal Narrative Prompt

Look at the picture below.



Every night people lay down to sleep and rest for the night.

Pretend you were sound asleep one night and a strange noise woke you up.  
Write an imaginative story about what happened when you went to investigate.

# **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	I was sleeping and was wakened by scratching noises.
	Significant characters	Older sister and myself
Introduction	Set the stage	When my parents are away, I try to be extra brave at night. I buried my head in my blanket when I first heard the scratching noises from different parts of my bedroom.
	First event	As the noises shifted from place to place, I thought about calling my parents who were still out of town.
Body	Second event	My older sister burst into my room asking if I heard scratching noises.
	Third event	We turned on the lights and decided to investigate the noises together. Went from room to room.
	Fourth event	Sometimes the noises would stop, then they seemed to quickly scratch again. Hours passed.
	Fifth event	As we listened closer, we suspected it was an animal running within the walls. We both decided to sleep in our parents' bed.
	Final outcome	The next day, as we played in the back yard, we discovered a squirrel running across the roof.
Closing		<b>Parting Thought</b> Instantly, my sister and I concluded there had been some critter connection to our sleepless night. Then we saw the squirrel disappear beneath a roof tile.

## **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: I was sleeping and was wakened by scratching noises.

Significant characters (SC): Older sister and myself

(hook)

Set the stage - When my parents are away, I try to be extra brave at night. I buried my head in my blanket when I first heard the scratching noises from different parts of my bedroom.

## II. Body

1<sup>st</sup> Event - As the noises shifted from place to place, I thought about calling my parents who were still out of town.

2<sup>nd</sup> Event - My older sister burst into my room asking if I heard scratching noises.

3<sup>rd</sup> Event - We turned on the lights and decided to investigate the noises together. Went from room to room.

4<sup>th</sup> Event - Sometimes the noises would stop, then they seemed to quickly scratch again. Hours passed.

5<sup>th</sup> Event - As we listened closer, we suspected it was an animal running within the walls. We both decided to sleep in our parents' bed.

## III. Closing

Final outcome: The next day, as we played in the back yard, we discovered a squirrel running across the roof.

Parting thought - Instantly, my sister and I concluded there had been some critter connection to our sleepless night. Then we saw the squirrel disappear beneath a roof tile.

# 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 - I was sleeping and was awakened by scratching noises.

Set the stage - When my parents are away, I try to be extra brave at night. I buried my head in my blanket when I first heard the scratching noises from different parts of my bedroom.

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

## II. Body

1<sup>st</sup> Event- As the noises shifted from place to place, I thought about calling my parents who were still out of town.

- 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.

2<sup>nd</sup> Event- My older sister burst into my room asking if I heard scratching noises.

- 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.

3<sup>rd</sup> Event- We turned on the lights and decided to investigate the noises together. Went from room to room.

- 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.

4<sup>th</sup> Event- Sometimes the noises would stop, then they seemed to quickly scratch again. Hours passed.

- 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.

5<sup>th</sup> Event- As we listened closer, we suspected it was an animal running within the walls. We both decided to sleep in our parents' bed.

- 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: The next day, as we played in the back yard, we discovered a squirrel running across the roof!

Parting thought - Instantly, my sister and I concluded there had been some critter connection to our sleepless night. Then we saw the squirrel disappear beneath a roof tile.

**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.



