

Personal Narrative Prompt

Look at the picture below.



Rituals are repeated acts that are performed for symbolic value. Think about a ritual that you, your friends, or your family have.

Write a personal narrative about a time that you completed a ritual, custom or service. Be sure to write in detail about the ritual and describe what happened when you participated in that ritual.

Personal Narrative Planning Organizer
Sample for Guided Writing

"Who" and "what" Occasion of the story	Occasion or central idea <small>Note: must meet demands of the prompt</small>	A family gathering at my Grandparents' house
	Significant characters	My family and I
Introduction	Set the stage	For any type of family gathering, it is a ritual for us to eat a Vietnamese soup called pho.
	First event	My mother reminded my siblings and me that we were going to our grandparents' house this weekend.
Body	Second event	All week I looked forward to eating the delectable pho. My grandmother's pho is the best.
	Third event	We packed our bags and headed over to Bay City, Texas. As I walked in the house, I could smell the familiar aroma of pho waiting for us.
	Fourth event	We did our familiar ritual – the men would sit down and the women would prepare the bowls of pho for them first.
	Final outcome	Soon, everyone would be eating the best pho in town.
Closing		<p>Parting Thought</p> <p>It warms my heart that my family can bond over something as simple as soup.</p>

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: A family gathering at my Grandparents' house

Significant characters (SC): My family and I

(hook)

Set the stage - For any type of family gathering, it is a ritual for us to eat a Vietnamese soup called pho.

II. Body

1st Event - My mother reminded my siblings and me that we were going to our grandparents' house this weekend.

2nd Event - All week I looked forward to eating the delectable pho. My grandmother's pho is the best.

3rd Event - We packed our bags and headed over to Bay City, Texas. As I walked in the house, I could smell the familiar aroma of pho waiting for us.

4th Event - We did our familiar ritual - the men would sit down and the women would prepare the bowls of pho for them first.

III. Closing

Final outcome: Soon, everyone would be eating the best pho in town.

Parting thought - It warms my heart that my family can bond over something as simple as soup.

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 readers attention. Use this “set the stage” idea or develop one with a similar idea.

I. Introduction

CI - A family gathering at my Grandparents' house

Set the stage - For any type of family gathering, it is a ritual for us to eat a Vietnamese soup called pho.

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

II. Body

1st Event- My mother reminded my siblings and me that we were going to our grandparents' house this weekend.

- 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- All week I looked forward to eating the delectable pho. My grandmother's pho is the best.

- 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- We packed our bags and headed over to Bay City, Texas. As I walked in the house, I could smell the familiar aroma of pho waiting for us.

- 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- We did our familiar ritual - the men would sit down and the women would prepare the bowls of pho for them first.

- 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: Soon, everyone would be eating the best pho in town.

Parting thought - It warms my heart that my family can bond over something as simple as soup.

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**

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