

## Personal Narrative Prompt

Look at the picture below.



Over time places you know well change due to weather, development, or natural disasters.

Write a personal narrative about the events that occurred when a place that you know well changed. Be sure to write in detail about the change and describe how you feel about the changes that occurred.

**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>	Visiting Matagorda beach after the oil spill
	Significant characters	My Grandmother and I
Introduction	Set the stage	The gulf oil spill had been a fairly recent fiasco, and I heard that the spill was starting to affect the coasts of Texas.
	First event	I got on my computer and researched Matagorda Beach to see if it had been affected by the oil spill. My grandmother would take my sister and me to this beach frequently during past summers.
Body	Second event	My grandmother and I decided it would be a good idea for us to visit Matagorda beach to see the oil spill's aftermath.
	Third event	Just in case there was a large mess from the oil spill, we decided to pack trash bags, gloves, and cleaning supplies.
	Fourth event	After a forty-five minute drive, we made it to the beach. Just as we suspected, our favorite summer destination was now completely changed.
Closing	Final outcome	The sand had hints of oil residue, the water was darker and murky, and there were many dead fish washed up on shore.  <b>Parting Thought</b> After seeing our favorite place look so helpless, we decided to clean up every day after that in hopes of restoring our favorite place.

## **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: Visiting Matagorda beach after the oil spill

Significant characters (SC): My Grandmother and I

(hook)

Set the stage - The gulf oil spill had been a fairly recent fiasco, and I heard that the spill was starting to affect the coasts of Texas.

## II. Body

1<sup>st</sup> Event - I got on my computer and researched Matagorda Beach to see if it had been affected by the oil spill. My grandmother would take my sister and me to this beach frequently during past summers.

2<sup>nd</sup> Event - My grandmother and I decided it would be a good idea for us to visit Matagorda beach to see the oil spill's aftermath.

3<sup>rd</sup> Event - Just in case there was a large mess from the oil spill, we decided to pack trash bags, gloves, and cleaning supplies.

4<sup>th</sup> Event - After a forty-five minute drive, we made it to the beach. Just as we suspected, our favorite summer destination was now completely changed.

## III. Closing

Final outcome: The sand had hints of oil residue, the water was darker and murky, and there were many dead fish washed up on shore.

Parting thought - After seeing our favorite place look so helpless, we decided to clean up every day after that in hopes of restoring our favorite place.

# 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 - Visiting Matagorda beach after the oil spill

Set the stage - The gulf oil spill had been a fairly recent fiasco, and I heard that the spill was starting to affect the coasts of Texas.

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

## II. Body

1<sup>st</sup> Event- I got on my computer and researched Matagorda Beach to see if it had been affected by the oil spill. My grandmother would take my sister and me to this beach frequently during past summers.

- 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 grandmother and I decided it would be a good idea for us to visit Matagorda beach to see the oil spill's aftermath.

- 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- Just in case there was a large mess from the oil spill, we decided to pack trash bags, gloves, and cleaning supplies.

- 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- After a forty-five minute drive, we made it to the beach. Just as we suspected, our favorite summer destination was now completely changed.

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

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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 sand had hints of oil residue, the water was darker and murky, and there were many dead fish washed up on shore.

Parting thought - After seeing our favorite place look so helpless, we decided to clean up every day after that in hopes of restoring our favorite place.

**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* _____		Identify _____	In the middle	Imagine this...	Positive sweet with a negative sour	Action and words
Support _____		Support _____	Zoom in & describe	It’s complicated and complex	For the first time ever...	Tell me about it
Reflection _____		Reflection _____	Intentional repetition	Now...back then	Define it	
Second event _____		Identify _____	Pop culture reference	“Ed” phrases	We...statements of unity	AKS – proper nouns
Support _____		Support _____	Personification People characteristics	Onomatopoeia (sound)	Call to action	In other words (restatement)
Reflection _____		Reflection _____	Set the stage	Hyperbole! Exaggerate!	Important and significant	
Final outcome _____		Occasion _____	I, we, they think		Love, love, love	
Insight _____		Insight _____			Historical reference	
Parting thought _____		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.

