

## 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.  <b>Parting Thought</b> It warms my heart that my family can bond over something as simple as soup.
Closing		

## **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

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

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

3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

4<sup>th</sup> 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

1<sup>st</sup> 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.

2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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

4<sup>th</sup> Event— We did our familiar ritual – the men would sit down and the women would prepare the bowls of pho for them first.

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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: 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\*\*

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.