

Genre Language Patterns Personal Narrative Essay Sample Frames

Beginning/Early Intermediate	Intermediate	Early Advanced/Advanced
The essay includes a summary of the incident (i.e., a single incident.)		
It was _____. I still remember _____.	I still remember the time when _____. I will never forget when _____.	I still remember the time when _____. I will never forget when _____. _____ was a _____ as a _____.
The essay includes descriptive language (i.e., nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, metaphors, similes, figurative language, etc.)		
It was _____. (loud, noisy) I saw _____. It tasted _____. It smelled _____. It felt _____. It looked _____. The _____ is _____.	The _____ looked like _____. The _____ sounded like _____. The _____ felt like _____. The _____ smelled like _____. The _____ tasted like _____. The _____ has _____ and _____. The (adj) (noun) (verb). At the time, I felt _____.	_____ is _____ and _____ with _____. The (adj) (noun) (verb) (adverb). Due to _____, the _____ is like _____ because _____. Due to _____, I felt _____.
The essay includes dialogue in re-telling the incident.		
He/She said, “_____.” He/She said that _____. “_____,” he/she said.	Vary words for said. (Told/asked/ requested/mentioned, etc.) I told him/her _____.	“_____,” _____ said, “_____.”

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The essay includes transitions.		
First, _____. Next, _____. Last, _____.	In the beginning, _____. Later, _____. This was followed by _____. Finally, _____. To begin with _____. Once he/she _____, then _____. After _____, the _____. In the end, _____.	Prior to _____, he/she/it _____. Just as _____, _____. Before the _____, he/she/it _____. It wasn't until _____ that _____.
The essay includes a well-integrated ending and the writer tells how he/she feels about the incident now.		
I learned _____. I felt _____. This experience taught me _____.	_____ taught me _____. _____ was like _____. Now I know that _____. When I think of _____, I _____. I still think _____. I will never forget _____.	Thinking about this experience now makes me realize _____. As I reflect on this event, I feel _____. An important lesson that I learned from this experience was _____. When I think of _____, I am reminded that _____.