

A Brief Definition:

A personal narrative essay is a well-told story in a natural, honest voice about a specific occurrence in a writer's life.



Also called...

- Autobiographical
- Autobiographical Narrative
- Personal Narrative

Personal Narrative Essay



From the ELD Intermediate to Advanced Standards...

- ✓ Identify various elements of discourse in writing (i.e., purpose, speaker, audience, or form)
- ✓ Use strategies of note taking, outlining and summarizing to structure drafts of clear, coherent and focused essays with consistent use of standard grammatical forms.
- ✓ Create coherent paragraphs through effective transitions.
- ✓ Write detailed fictional biographies and autobiographies.

...



The Context: Where/When/Why

- common requirement for college entrance
- promotes critical thinking
- affirms a writer's voice



The Motivation of the Writer: "So what?"

- Why should the reader care about this story?
- What can we learn from reading the story?
- Is some aspect of the text particularly compelling?

The Process

1 Reflect:

Students think about a single incident in their lives to share.

2 Describe:

Students describe the incident using sensory detail and figurative

...

3 Analyze:

Students compare his/her feelings during the incident with his/her feelings about the incident now.