

# WRITE Institute

## Scoring Guide for Personal Narrative

A personal narrative essay is a well-told story in a natural, honest voice about a specific occurrence in a writer’s life. The writer uses vivid sensory detail to engage the reader and reveals (either implied or stated) the significance of the event.

### Scoring Range

Each category is worth 0-6 points.

0 = off topic/no evidence	4 = proficient
1 = minimal evidence of proficiency	5 = exceeding expectations
2 = some evidence of proficiency, but weak	6 = outstanding
3 = developing proficiency	

Directions: Total points and divide by 10 to yield a score of 0-6.

### CONTENT & ORGANIZATION

- \_\_\_\_\_ The introduction captures the reader’s interest.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The composition is about a single incident that is of personal significance to the author.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The essay describes the setting and the people involved in the incident.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The writer describes his/her feelings during the incident.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The writer uses dialogue in re-telling the incident.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The writer uses an appropriate level of vocabulary, sensory detail and/or figurative language.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The writer tells how he/she feels about the incident now.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The ending concludes the story.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The essay is clearly organized.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The writer uses an appropriate level of conventions such as sentence structure, grammar and mechanics.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Total**                      (divided by 10)                      =                      \_\_\_\_\_ **Score**

#### Notes to the teacher:

- Review instructional implications.
- Direct student reflections. (My abilities are...I am going to focus on improving...) Isolate elements of structure from writer's first or second language.