

NARRATIVE PARAGRAPHS

Article One:

A narrative is a story. To write an effective narrative paragraph, the author must be creative yet concise. A well-written narrative paragraph will appeal to readers because of the author's thorough knowledge of the subject and ability to communicate effectively. Follow these steps to learn more.

Step1: Choose a topic that will appeal to the designated audience for your narrative paragraph.

Step2: List several details that you know or have learned about your chosen topic.

Step3: Write a topic sentence that introduces what key information will be in the paragraph.

Step4: Create an outline of your paragraph that begins with your topic sentence and contains at least three important details from your list.

Step5: Write your three detail sentences. Use transitions between each sentence to lead your reader logically through the narrative.

Step6: Add your final clincher or concluding sentence that sums up your paragraph without simply repeating the details from your paragraph.

Step7: Check your paragraph for errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation, or have an adult or peer read your paragraph to identify mistakes.

Tips & Warnings

* Do not write a topic sentence that says starts with, "In this paragraph, I am going to tell you about." This does not draw in your reader.

* Clincher or concluding sentences should not use phrases such as "And that is what happened" or "Thank you for reading my paragraph." These phrases do not add to the narrative.

Article Two:

Narrative paragraphs are often used to describe what a person does over a period of time. Read this example narrative paragraph, notice how words like 'later' are used to connect what happens.

Yesterday evening I got home from work at 6 o'clock. My wife had prepared dinner which we ate immediately. After I had cleaned up the kitchen, we watched TV for about an hour. Then we got ready to go out with some friends. Our friends arrived at about 9 o'clock and we chatted for a while. Later we decided to visit a jazz club and listen to some music. We really enjoyed ourselves and stayed late. We finally left at one o'clock in the morning.

Narrative paragraphs are often used to describe our routines. Read this example narrative paragraph, notice how words like 'sometimes, often, etc.' are used to say often something happens.

Every Saturday morning I get up at eight o'clock. I immediately cook breakfast and my daughter and my wife and I usually have breakfast together. I usually go shopping. My daughter and wife usually go to the park to have some fun with the other children in our neighborhood. After I do the shopping, I come home and my wife and I clean the house. My wife then cooks lunch while my daughter plays in her room and then we eat together. After lunch, we sometimes go shopping. If we don't go shopping, we often go to the countryside for a nice walk. We often get home quite late and have a small dinner. We usually watch a film on TV and then go to bed at about eleven o'clock.

Article Three

Narrative writing tells a story. It can be fact or fiction, but it always depicts a series of events or incidents, usually in chronological order.

1 Narrative Writing

Narrative writing tells a story. It can be fact or fiction, but it always depicts a series of events or incidents, usually in chronological order. Just as in descriptive writing, there are several components in narrative writing that make it unique. These are

Selecting Key Events:

- a) Since you can not use all the events you must select the events you consider to be the most important .
- b) It differs from a summary of events because it includes many details that would be omitted in a summary. A narrative often describes how the characters feel and think, but a summary usually does not . People who include every event spoil the narration.
- c) Select events to:
 - * move the action forward
 - * provide turning points for the action
 - * give insight into the people involved
 - * help achieve a desired effect, such as irony or suspense.

Using Narrative Detail

- a) Details have several purposes. Among them are:
 - to specify action
 - to add interest
 - to help reveal character
 - to provide a reason for action

Using Dialogue

- a) We are not told about an event. Rather, we see and hear it happening. Dialogue in a narrative may:
 - offer explanations
 - give reasons
 - state opinions
 - give facts
- b) A dialogue tag serves to identify the speaker. (eg: Susanna says, “I want to go home.”)

Using Description in a Narrative

- a) In narration the persons, places, or things presented in the narrative are secondary. Description should be used sparingly and only with a specific purpose.

*** Point of View**

Just as in descriptive writing, the person from whose point of view you write the narrative will have an overwhelming effect on what is included in the narration. For example, if you are writing about an accident, whether you are the driver, the victim, the policeman at the scene, a witness, or a passenger – this will have an impact on your perception of the events.

Use one of the following as a narrative paragraph starter:

- After the argument, he...
- The two of us crouched, cornered. In front of us...
- Today as I walked to practice....

Article Four

Narrative paragraphs are a lot of fun to write. Here you can tell your reader a story from beginning to end. You don't have to imagine anything out of the ordinary - only tell the story, tell what happened. This alone usually allows the nervous writer to stop worrying about generating ideas, and to concentrate on organizing the events in the story being told.

2

There are a few things to think about when getting ready to write narrative paragraphs:

Know the information well.

Know the order in which things happened

Think of your audience: does anyone there need extra information to understand part of your story?

Identify your characters well

Explain the setting/ place where things were happening

What is the MORAL OF THIS STORY? What lesson did you learn from it?

Make your sentences as interesting as possible

Organize all of this information in a way to show the beginning, the middle and the end of the story.

Now you are ready to write:

Start by telling your audience what you learned from this event or story.

Do this right in the beginning

Explain the setting for the event: tell where, when, how the event happened.

Introduce the main character - later you will have time to introduce other characters.

Tell your reader what happened in the beginning of this story or event.

Tell your reader what happened in the middle. This usually contains the most important part of the story

Tell what happened at the end

Go back to the moral of your story again to finish the paragraph!

You are ready to double check your work, to edit your paper.

Check to see if: Yes No

1. all of your sentences are strong, clear and varied - some long and some short, all interesting
2. the order of the story is correct; if you forgot some key information, it will be difficult to tell the story well
3. your story has a beginning, a middle, and an end
4. your transitions help explain the sequence your reader will have to follow
5. your main idea is clear; if the moral of the story is right at the beginning of your paragraph
6. your conclusion restates what you said in your main idea
7. you have any spelling or grammatical mistakes
8. your reader will easily understand how or why the event is taking place
9. you need to add details such as time, location, or anything else needed for your reader to understand the story

Edit your paper again. Put your process analysis paragraph away for a day or two, then edit it once more. You will be glad you did.

Article Five

Purpose: The narrative paragraph tells about one main incident or happening. The author brings the incident to life so the reader shares the experience. It should be written in logical order. It describes what a person does over a period of time.

How to Write the Narrative Paragraph:

- * Have a topic sentence that arouses the reader's interest. You can describe a scene or introduce characters.
- * Build your paragraph around one main incident. Here is where your action takes place.
- * Write the event in the order that it occurred. Do not skip around.
- * Your ending should satisfy your reader's expectations. Bring your paragraph to a close.

Signal Words and Phrases:



- * next, then, while, after, first
- * after while, a little later, at the same time, during the morning, later that night

Example of Narrative Paragraph:

Yesterday evening I got home from school around 4 o'clock. My mother had dinner prepared which we ate as soon as Dad came home from work. After eating, I helped mother clear the table and do the dishes. After we got the kitchen cleaned, I had to sit and do my homework. Mother always says, "No television until your homework is done". I finally got my math finished, so I went into the family room and turned on the television. I was watching American Idol, when the phone rang. It was my best friend, Amy. I talked to her for awhile then it was time for bed. I put on my pajamas and turned on my favorite cd. I finally started to get sleepy around 9:30. The next thing I knew, mother was calling me to get ready for school.

Article Six

Narration is a piece of writing that tells a story of an event or experience.

The events you include and the way you describe them create a story that is based on your point of view.

A good Narration

- Reveals something of importance to you (your main point)
- Includes all of the major events of the story.
- Uses details to bring the story to life
- Presents the events in a clear order, usually according to when it happened.

Common time transitions

Before	Later
After	At last
During	Last
First	Eventually
Next	Meanwhile
Second	Since
Then	Now
Finally	Soon
while	when

Guidelines of a Narrative Paragraph

Write out the topic sentence and circle the point of view.

List any background information

Briefly summarize the incident (write several sentences telling what happened in your own words)

Do all of these sentences support your point of view?

Are the events in the story in chronological order?

Read the following paragraph

My twelfth birthday was originally a disappointment that turned into my best birthday ever. For five or six months preceding the big day, I begged my parents for a certain new bicycle. I had seen one in a medium price range that I figured my folks could afford. I hinted and even pleaded outright, promising to do extra chores if I got it. Pointing out that the only bike I had ever had was a hand-me-down from my older brother. I showed them how rusted the frame was. Meanwhile, my brother was begging for a set of tires for the car he had bought. When my birthday

finally came, my hopes were so high. Instead of the bicycle, though, I got a new shirt, a pair of sneakers, and an envelope. At first, I thought it was just a card, but it turned out to have enough money for the bike in it. It also contained five “contracts” for extra work around the house that I could do to earn enough money for a much nicer bicycle. My parents gave me the gift of upgrading from the bike I settled for. I ended up getting a great new bicycle that I helped to buy with money I had earned myself.

1. What is the topic sentence?
2. Which sentence is not in unity with the rest of the paragraph?
3. What do you think is the writer’s reason for writing this paragraph?

