

Narrative Writing

An excellent narrative. . .

- ✓ focuses on a single event or on a series of closely related events
- ✓ includes an introduction that grabs the reader's attention
- ✓ consistently uses first-person point of view
- ✓ is well-structured using chronological order
- ✓ includes transitions to clarify order, such as *then* and *later*
- ✓ uses sensory details and rich description and dialogue
- ✓ states a compelling conflict, or problem, that the characters face
- ✓ includes the writer's feelings and overall impressions
- ✓ concludes in a satisfying way by bringing events to the present or explaining what the writer learned

An average narrative . .

- ✓ generally focuses on a single event but occasionally wanders off topic
- ✓ has an introduction that is appealing but not especially original
- ✓ occasionally slips out of first-person point of view
- ✓ arranges details in chronological order but uses few transitions
- ✓ uses some dialogue and vivid description
- ✓ states a weak or unclear conflict
- ✓ concludes by repeating phrases and sentences from the introduction or by using a cliché, such as "I guess I'll never be the same" or "Only time will tell"

A poor narrative . . .

- ✓ wanders from topic to topic rather than focusing on a single event
- ✓ has a confusing introduction or no introduction
- ✓ uses first-person point of view inconsistently
- ✓ gives little or no description of people or places
- ✓ describes events out of sequence and uses few or no transitions
- ✓ lacks a conflict and dialogue
- ✓ ends suddenly without bringing the reader to the present or reflecting on the significance of the experience