
Review Words

naturally

privilege

elude

hearty

traveled

breathing

gentlest

grumpiest

marshes

draperies

***Please read all instructions carefully. Choose from any of the examples topics from your journal writings or homework.**

A Personal Narrative

The word narrative means to “narrate” or “to tell.”

Part 1: Spelling Connections – Reading

In this lesson you will write a personal narrative. In a personal narrative you relate an incident from your experience that has affected you in some way.

First read the personal narrative below. In it the narrator recalls a significant incident from his experience. It happens in the Old West, just after he has captured a horse that he calls Mago (ma`go), the Spanish word for “magician.” Read the narrative, and then answer the questions that follow.

My father saw me coming and waited for me without a word. A smile played over his face, and a spark danced in his eyes. He watched me take the rope from Mago, and the two of us thoughtfully observed him move away. My father clasped my hand a little more was needed. We understood one another very well. I was playing the role of a real man, but the childish laughter and shouting that bubbled up inside me almost destroyed the impression I wanted to create.

from “My Wonder Horse,” by Sabine R. Ulibarri

Questions:

1. How does the narrator feel during this incident?
2. How does his father react when he sees the narrator approaching?
3. Why do you suppose the young man considers this incident to be a significant event in his life?

Part 2: Speaking and Listening

Think about three incidents in your experience that have taught you something or affected you in some way. What makes them memorable? Why do you consider them

significant? Tell what happened and why each experience was important to you. Look at the review words in the box. Find or think of at least three words that could be used to narrate each incident.

Part 3: Writing a Personal Narrative

Now you will write your own personal narrative. Your purpose will be to give your audience a clear and interesting story of what happened and how it affected you. Your narrative need not relate the most personal or important events of your entire life to be worth writing. Both large and small experiences may affect us in memorable ways and may interest an audience. Your narrative may be serious or humorous.

Assignment: Write a two paragraph narrative about a personal experience follow the steps below.

Prewriting

Recall the discussion you had with your classmate and chose the personal experience you would most like to relate. Ask yourself questions about the incident to remember the most interesting details accurately. Write notes about what happened, in what sequence, at what place in time, and how it felt and affected you. Organize your notes and question yourself to make sure your narrative will be clear and interesting.

To help yourself describe the incident vividly, make a word bank that includes review words and other descriptive words you could use in your narrative. Begin by reading the word list above and then add any useful words that you find there. You may also use any of the one hundred words you have learned over this semester.

Writing

Now write the first draft of your personal narrative. Tell about your experience and show how it affected you. Use your prewriting notes and your word bank to help you write. Write quickly and don't worry about making mistakes (i.e. like a freewriting). You can make corrections later. Be sure to use some of the review words.

Revising

Read your first draft. Revise the draft by making corrections, using the improvements you have learned in grammar. Proof read it for errors in grammar and punctuation. Then check each word to be sure it is spelled correctly. Make a neat final copy of you narrative.

Presenting

Read your personal narrative aloud. Make sure it sounds good to you. Email your final revision when it is complete.