Narrative Essay

Write a narrative essay on whatever you choose. You can choose a theme from one of the stories you have read in class to help with brainstorming.

1. Between 750-1000 words

2. Must be in first or third person

3. Must be in the present tense

4. Show don’t tell!!!

5. Must be typed and double spaced

6. If you include dialogue, you must format properly. See me for directions.

Narrative Essay Rubric

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|  | **10/9** | **8.5/8/7.5** | **7/6.5** | **6/5** |
| Ideas/Purpose | -A **unique** story that is shared using details that make the narrative truly **memorable**  -**Purpose** is inferred or stated naturally | -An interesting experience is shared with details that help create the interest  -Purpose is inferred or stated clearly | -The interesting experience needs more details  -Purpose is stated explicitly but may not fit the story. OR may be confusing | -The narrative need to focus on one experience. Some details do not fit the narrative or it is missing details  -Purpose is unclear |
| Organization | The organization makes the narrative **easy to read and enjoyable** | Organized well with a clear beginning, middle and end | The order of events need to be corrected  Transitions may be weak or missing | Organization is confusing. Transitions weak or missing |
| Voice | The voice creates an **unforgettable experience** | The personal voice creates interest. Possibly more dialogue is needed | The voice can usually be heard but may be a bit flat | Voice is simple |
| Word choice | Exceptional word choice  The story is **shown** in **vivid details and imagery** | Specific nouns, strong verbs and well-chosen modifiers create vivid pictures and express clear feelings. Some *showing* as opposed to *telling* | Some vivid language is used but may be overused or simple.  Story is *told*, not *shown* | Little or no attempt at vivid language is used.  Story is *told*, not *shown* |
| Sentence Fluency | The sentences are **skillfully written, original and interesting** | The sentences show variety and are easy to read and understand | More variety in sentences are needed. Sentences may be awkward. | Too many awkward sentences that cause the reader to pause |
| Conventions | Grammar and punctuation are correct (esp. dialogue) Essay is free of spelling errors  -**Present tense** | The narrative has a few errors in punctuation, spelling or grammar  -present tense | The narrative has obvious errors in punctuation, spelling and grammar.  -not in present tense | Too many errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar  -not in present tense |

Checklist

* What is your purpose? Ask someone to read your essay and get them to tell you the purpose. If they don’t know, you need to add/change/delete to make it clearer.
* Do you have dialogue? Would your narrative be stronger with dialogue? Did you format it correctly? A new paragraph occurs after each speaker. Note where quotation marks occur.
* Have you SHOWN your story- don’t tell. Describe how you feel, what you see, hear, smell, taste.
* Do you begin your narrative IN the action? (much more interesting)
* Are you too wordy? Eliminate any “dead wood”. (How many times has someone told you a story with too many details and you are thinking “get to the point!”