

THE NARRATIVE ESSAY

DEFINITION: A narrative presents a connected series of events, either imaginary or based on the writer's own experience.

<p>A good narrative should consist of:</p> <p>A. An introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• which sets the scene: the place, time, character(s)• creates an interesting mood/ atmosphere : <p>B. A main body:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• consists of two or more paragraphs which develop a series of events clearly (the plot) and in their logical sequence; <p>C. A conclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• which completes the narration and contains the end of the story, the final paragraph;• it contains reference to moods, consequences, people's reactions, feelings, comments appropriate to the topic/title given in the task.	<p><u>Writing techniques:</u></p> <p>INTEREST: the essay includes those incidents and details which can make the narration catchy, interesting, to hold the readers' attention to the very end;</p> <p>UNITY: coherence and cohesion within paragraphs leading on naturally to each other, without any unnecessary repetitions ; each paragraph adds something new to the essay;</p> <p>BALANCE AND PROPORTION: attention to the length of paragraphs, attention to those fascinating and unimportant details, too long descriptions, which will throw the essay out of balance.</p> <p>PERSONAL STATEMENTS: the essay writer should not address the teacher or make such comments on the topic “ <i>I do not like this topic and do not know...</i> ” or “<i>now it is the time for me to finish my essay.</i>”</p> <p>TENSES: the choice of tenses is important; past continuous to set the scene; past simple and past perfect to narrate the main events; it is always best to relate events in the order in which they happened;</p> <p>TIME WORDS: to have a sequence of events: before, after, then, later, until, while, in the beginning, finally etc. It can be written in the first person or the third person.</p>
<p>THE BEGINNING: may contain vivid descriptions of emotions (“<i>Stunned, she sat down shakily and buried her face in her hands</i>” suggesting shock, grief), details involving the senses (<i>lapping waves, soft sand</i> to set a peaceful scene), a rhetorical question or an atmosphere of mystery, suspense. A dramatic beginning: a sudden or exciting action, the use of direct speech, etc.</p> <p>THE ENDING: a good ending is as important as a good beginning; direct speech, rhetorical question, narrate people's reactions to the events developed in the main body.</p> <p>FLASHBACK NARRATION: when the narration is started at a certain point in time (often a very exciting moment), then goes back in time and describes events which happened before this time (usually in past perfect), leads the reader up to the specified time, then goes on with the narrative and brings it to a conclusion.</p> <p>DESCRIPTIONS of people, places, objects or events (<i>descriptive techniques</i>) can be used in a narrative essay to emphasize specific parts of the narration.</p>	