

Personal Narrative Essay

Include the following:

- **Hook/Lead**
Choose from:
Action lead (a person doing something)
Dialogue lead (a character or characters saying something), or
Reaction lead (a character thinking about something)
Include a HOOK to draw your reader in!
- **Ba-Da-Bing**
Can be used in the lead, for the climax, or in the conclusion.
 - Where did your feet go?
 - What did you see (smell, hear, taste or touch/feel)?
 - What did you think/say?
- **Vivid verbs** - Add action verbs that pop!
- **Sensory words**
Add adjectives that tell how it felt, tasted, smelled, sounded, and/or looked like.
- **Dialogue** (if appropriate) + **Words Instead of Said**
- **Specific details**
You should include details for things that matter in the essay.
- **Figurative Language**
Examples are simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, idiom, etc.
- **Thoughts and feelings**
Include your thoughts and feelings, as well as those of other people in your essay.

Expository Essay

Include the following:

- **Attention Grabber/Introduction**
 - **Historical review** – Some topics are better understood if a brief historical review of the topic is presented to lead into the discussion.
 - **Anecdote** – An anecdote is a story that illustrates a point.
Be sure your anecdote is short, to the point, and relevant to your topic.
 - **Startling information** – This information must be true and verifiable, and it doesn't need to be totally new to your readers. It could simply be a pertinent fact that explicitly illustrates the point you wish to make.
 - **Famous person** – Dropping the name of a famous person usually gets the reader's attention. Of course, bringing up this person's name must be relevant to the topic.
 - **Summary information** – A few sentences explaining your topic in general terms can lead the reader gently to your thesis. Each sentence should become gradually more specific, until you reach your thesis.

NOTE: If the attention grabber was only a sentence or two, add one or two more sentences that will lead the reader from your opening to your thesis statement.
- **Thesis**
Topic + Controlling Idea (what you are going to prove in your essay)
The thesis should be only **one sentence**, beginning with a **transition word/phrase**, and must be an **arguable statement**.
- **Support Paragraphs**
Include TWO (2) body paragraphs with examples that support your thesis. **Support examples can come from:**
 - Current Events (news, politics, celebrities, sports, etc.)
 - Historical Examples
 - Stuff you've read or seen (books, movies, articles, YouTube videos, magazines, newspapers, etc.)
 - Personal Examples (yours or others) – Only ONE personal example may be used!

Personal Narrative Essay, continued

- **Time transitions**

Examples: Before the game, After several minutes, Two months later, However, In time, Then, While we were waiting, Finally, etc.

- **Upgraded word choice**

Kill those dead words!! [evil grin]

- **Conclusion**

What lesson did you learn, and what happened AS A RESULT of the lesson learned? Or, what was the result of your experience, and how did that experience change you?

- **Dictionary**

Look up words in the dictionary to make sure you are spelling them correctly.

Expository Essay, continued

- **Conclusion**

What did I say? Summarize your essay in one sentence.

What does it mean? Explain what that means.

Why does it matter? Connect what you said in your essay to the real world. Why is what you wrote about going to matter to your reader?

- **Transitions**

Transitions before the thesis statement might be: Thus, Therefore, Generally speaking, As a result, Hence...

Transitions at the beginning of the 1st support paragraph: For example, For instance, In this case, As an illustration...

Transitions at the beginning of the 2nd support paragraph:
(Similar example) Also, In addition, Additionally, Likewise, Furthermore, Moreover, By the same token...

(Contrasting example) On the other hand, However, In contrast, Rather, On the contrary...

Transitions before the concluding paragraph might be:

In conclusion, In summary, To sum up, Hence, In any case, All in all, All things considered, in the long run, Finally...

NOTE: MAKE SURE TO PUT A COMMA AFTER YOUR TRANSITION WORDS/PHRASES AT THE BEGINNING OF SENTENCES!

- **Dictionary**

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