Tips for Writing a Narrative

• Show, don’t tell.  
 Example: “I was nervous.”   
 “My hands were sweating and my knees were shaking as I approached the front of the room.”

• Use description of all five senses to make your writing come alive.  
 Taste, Sight, Smell, Touch, Hear

• Create a meaningful conflict to drive your narrative.

• Add details to make your reader emotionally involved with your story.

• Make sure the resolution of the story fits the purpose and plot you have developed.

• Make sure your reader can understand what is happening.

• Use dialogue to show what your characters are like.

• Choose details that serve your purpose.  
 Don’t describe, in multiple sentences, the cereal you ate the morning before the big race, if the story is focused on the big race.

• Use the template below as a guide, but be creative

Possible Outline

**I. Introduction**

A. Attention-getter/hook

B. Significance of topic

1. Significance of topic to you

2. Significance of topic to your reader

C. Thesis (What is the central idea you want to get across with your essay? – This may not always be necessary in a narrative. Ask if you need clarification. )

II. Set-up

A. Background about event—to allow a reader to understand

1. History of people or event

2. Relevant details about the event

B. People involved

C. Setting

III. Beginning of Event

A. Explain how things started to happen

B. Show what people did to reach the point where the event was imminent—point of no

return.

C. Detailed sensory description of what happened

D. Feelings about what happened

IV. Climax of Event

A. Things come to a head

B. Detailed sensory description

C. Feelings about what happened

V. Resolution of Event

A. Sum up the event

B. Expand upon the lesson that you learned  
  
 1. Prove why it was an important moment for you  
  
 2. Explain how the reader can apply this to his or her life