

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

### Personal Narrative Essay Outline

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Introduction

Catch the reader's attention with an interesting opening sentence or two (hook). \_\_\_\_\_

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Give a little background information about your topic. Set the scene, but do not begin telling the story yet. Try to create a mood. \_\_\_\_\_

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Introduce your topic and the main idea (thesis statement) you want to communicate about your topic. (Was it scary? emotional? painful? life altering? Etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

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Include answers to who, when, and where. (Tell how old you were, what grade you were in, where you were living, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

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Lead in to telling what happened, but don't tell the story. End this paragraph with a cliffhanger, perhaps, which will make the reader want to know more. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Body** - Tell your story. Explain what happened. Tell it in the order in which it happened. Use chronological order. Guide the reader through the experience. Use "time" transition words and phrases to develop the sense of time and to connect ideas. Be sure to include your thoughts and feelings as you tell the story. Try to use specific nouns, vivid action verbs, and descriptive adjectives and adverbs in describing the experience and your thoughts and feelings. Make the experience come alive. Paint pictures in the reader's mind. Make us think and feel as you did.

Topic Sentence – Major Point: \_\_\_\_\_

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Details/Evidences/Facts/Reasons: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Explain/Elaborate/Further Evidence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Concluding Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Conclusion** - Conclude your writing with a paragraph that summarizes your thoughts and feelings about the experience. This is a very important paragraph! It leaves the reader with the final impression of your experience and your writing. Begin with a strong topic sentence (thesis statement) that states your main idea about the experience. Include comments on the following questions to show why and how this experience was important in your life:

Why did this happen? (You may not know) How did it change you? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Does it continue to have an effect on you? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Why was it an important experience in your life? What did you learn from this experience? \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How has it helped you grow and mature? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Summary Sentence (Restate Main Idea/Thesis): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Meaning of the experience for you- how did the experience change you or what it taught you: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_