



Personal Narrative

READING WRITING WORKSHOP
Theme 1, Grade 6

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Introduction

What Makes a Great Personal Narrative?

A personal narrative is a true story about something that happened to the person telling it.



Introduction

When you Write a Personal Narrative...

- use the first-person “I” voice
- start with a high impact beginning that grabs your reader’s attention.
- relate events in a logical sequence.



Introduction

When you Write a Personal Narrative...

- use details that inform the reader and enrich the narrative.
- write with a distinctive voice that is all your own.
- include dialogue when appropriate.
- provide a meaningful ending.



Introduction

Reading as a Writer

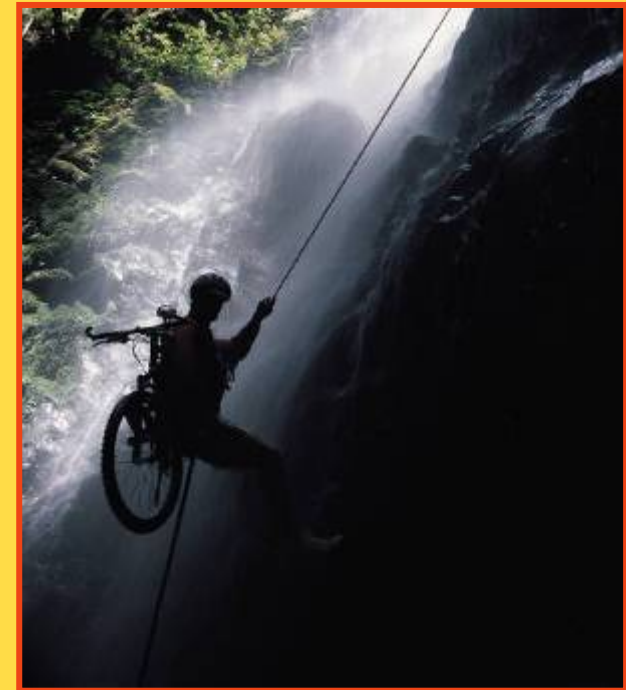
- Who is the author of the personal narrative?
- What is her topic?
- What clues does the author use to indicate the sequence of events?



Introduction

Reading as a Writer

- What details about rappelling does the author provide?
- What new information did you learn as a result of reading this personal narrative?



Prewriting

Choosing a Topic

- What audience will you be writing for:
 - a specific person?
 - friend and family:
 - a particular age group?
 - a general audience?



Prewriting

Choosing a Topic

- What purpose do you plan for your personal narrative to have:
 - to entertain?
 - to reveal something about yourself?
 - to inform?
 - to shine light on a matter that is important to you?



Prewriting

Choosing a Topic

- How will you publish your personal narrative:
 - in written form?
 - as a spoken or visual performance?
 - as a multimedia Internet presentation?



Prewriting

Ideas for Personal Narratives

- Suppose you were submitting an entry for a magazine contest entitled “Memorable Experiences.” What would your entry be about?
- What was the most courageous thing you have done lately?



Prewriting Ideas for Personal Narratives

Imagine yourself in thirty years telling stories to your children about “the old days.” What stories would you tell?



Prewriting Organizing and Planning

- Define the main point of your personal narrative.
- Write an outline that lists the main events and ideas you plan to cover.
- Eliminate ideas and events that do not relate to your main point.



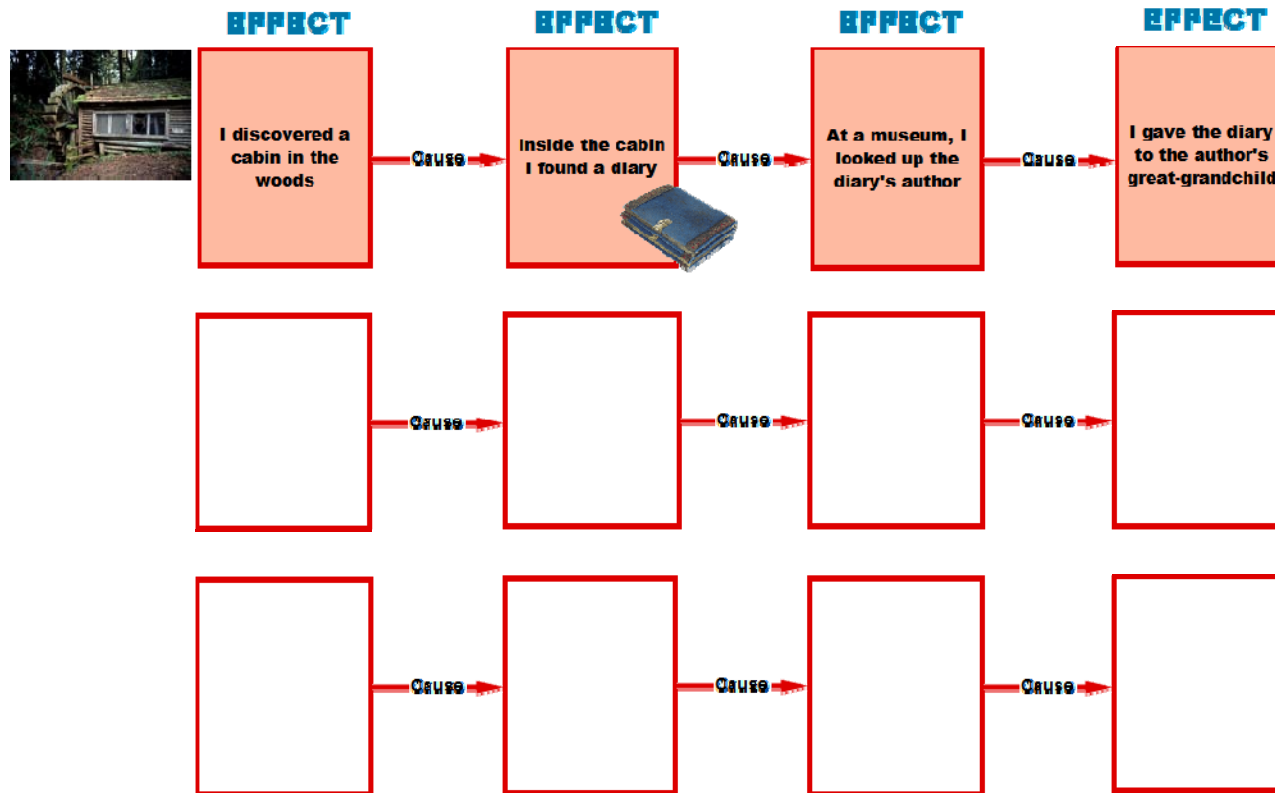
Prewriting

Organizing and Planning

- Draw a timeline of events.
- Pay close attention to cause-and-effect relationships in your narrative.
- Use cause-and-effect to organize the sequence of events.



Prewriting Organizing and Planning



Download this graphic organizer at www.curriculumcompanion.org

Drafting Sequencing

- Help your reader by using clue words.
- Tell events in the order in which they occurred.
- Make an outline of the narrative's events to make sure they are told in the correct order.



Drafting

Adding Details

- Use details either to provide information or to enrich the narrative.
- Use details to communicate sights, sounds, feelings, tastes, and smells.
- Make sure that all details are related to the story's main topic.



Revising Varying Sentences

Use a variety of sentence types in your writing.

- Declarative sentences
- Interrogative sentences
- Imperative sentences
- Exclamatory sentences



Proofreading

Checking your Work

- Capitalization
 - Is the first word of every sentence capitalized?
 - Did you capitalize the names of people and places?
- Punctuation
 - Does each sentence end with a punctuation mark?
 - Did you put apostrophe's around the dialogue?
- Spelling
 - Did you double check your spelling?

Publishing and Evaluating Student Self-Assessment

- What were the most effective parts of your narrative?
- Was there a logical sequence of events and use of details?
- Was this written in a lively style with a variety of different sentence types?



Publishing and Evaluating Student Self-Assessment

- Did your personal narrative allow your readers to relive the experience you were describing?
- How did feedback from your readers change your view of your personal narrative?

