Essay #1: The Personal Narrative Essay

**How is a Personal Experience Essay written?**

Personal essays are told from a first person point of view (“I … me …etc.). Narrative essays tell a story. Personal Narratives are most commonly written in chronological order. Because narrative essays are usually about events that have occurred in the past, they are most commonly told in the past tense (I drove up the street… As I was driving up the street…). Some narrative essays are written in the present tense (I am driving up the street…) to create an effect of immediacy. Flashbacks, speculations about the future and other devices that bend the chronological order are also common.

A Narrative Essay has two tasks: **to tell a story** and **to interpret it**. In other words, you aren’t telling a story just to tell it. You have to have a point!

The most common strategies essayists use to accomplish them are to:

* first tell the story, then interpret it, or
* tell the story interpreting it as they go, or
* tell the story infusing it with suggestive details and imagery so that its meaning shines out.

**Length & Form:** 5 Paragraphs. Between 500-750 words in length (approximately 2-3 pages).

**Step #1:** Choose one of the pre-writing techniques (clustering, freewriting, etc) to use for this essay. Brainstorm ideas in your chosen method. Once you have brainstormed, choose the topic for which you have the most evidence. **Brainstorming Method Due: Thursday, Sept 7th**

**Step #2:** Using the sample outline given in class, create an outline for essay #1 in MLA format. **Outline Due: Friday, September 8th.**

**Step #3:** Using your outline as a guide, type your first draft. \*Note: the first draft that you turn in should be something that you have edited and revised before handing in.\* **Bring Draft of Essay 1 to class on Tuesday, September 12th, Draft 1 Due: Before Home leave on September 13th**

**Step #4:** Conference with the teacher for feedback and assistance on essay 1.

**Step #5:** Edit and revise essay. **Final Draft Due to TURNITIN.COM: Friday, September 22nd, before start of class.**