

1 - Prepare your Ideas

A

In this unit, you will learn skills to help you present your ideas in a narrative essay. While some of the writing skills may be new to you, the skill of telling stories is not new. In your everyday life, you use the skill of telling stories in order to explain to your manager why it was not your fault that you arrived late to your job, or to retell the plot of a movie you recently saw and explain why it was better than the book version.

B) Reflect on the Topic

In this section, you will choose a writing prompt and reflect on it. You will develop these ideas throughout the unit and use them to practice skills that are necessary to write your essay.

The writing prompt below was used for the Student Model essay on pages 54-56. The student reflected on his topic and used a chart to help him remember specific events and details that made each even clear in his mind. This helped him think of a possible thesis.

WRITING PROMPT Choose a significant event in your life that resulted in a change in your view of the world or taught you a lesson.

What happened?	When?	Feelings and descriptive details
Grandparents said we were moving to the U.S. from Mexico	When I was 13	Upset, didn't want to leave my friends
Arrived in the U.S. and started school	A few months later	Felt awful, couldn't speak English, didn't fit in at all
Things got worse at school and at home	Start of school	Embarrassed at school, hated it when my grandparents came to school and spoke Spanish, felt lonely
Finally my grades improved and I had friends!	Before end of school year	Working hard at school, feeling more comfortable, didn't feel so lonely.

My thesis: My experience of moving to the United States taught me how to adjust to a new culture.

1.1 Notice

Read the events in the chart above and answer the questions.

- 1) Do the event have a clear beginning, middle and end?
- 2) Do you think this will be an interesting story? What will the writer have to develop?

1.2 Follow the directions to reflect on your topic.

A Choose a prompt

- Tell the story of an immigrant who moved to a new country and how he or she felt about that experience.
- When people make changes in their lives, such as moving to a new country or a new town or school, they often are faced with challenges. Think about a time in your life or the life of someone you know that was challenging. Write a story that describes how the challenge was faced.
- Tell the story of a family of immigrants and describe one influential event in their adjustment to a new culture.
- A topic approved by your instructor ((This might be the story topic you already selected).

B Complete the following prompt using your own story.

1. Think about your prompt. Decide what you will focus on in your essay.
2. Complete the chart below. Think of everything you know about the story that you want to tell. Add more rows if you need them.
3. Write a possible thesis statement.

What happened?	When?	Feelings and descriptive details

Possible Thesis statement

2) EXPAND YOUR KNOWLEDGE

In this section, you will learn academic language that you can use in your narrative essays. You will also notice how a professional writer uses the language and features of narration.

A Academic Vocabulary

The words below appear throughout the unit. Many are from the Academic Word List. Using these words in your writing will make your ideas clearer and your writing more academic.

Adjust (v)	anticipate (v)	image (n)	security (n)
Ambition (n)	complexity (n)	initially (adv)	stressful (adj)

2.1 **Focus on Meaning** Match the words to their meanings. Write the letters.

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|---|---|
| 1. Initially , the first European immigrants to American were from England. They came before anyone else did | a making you feel worried and nervous |
| 2. When some immigrants arrive in a new place, they are surprised because they did not anticipate how different Things would be. | b. At the beginning. |
| 3. Early immigrants to America were not used to the weather and the difficulties of farming in the new land so they had to adjust quickly in order to survive. | c. to imagine or expect that that something will happen |
| 4. Immigrating can be stressful . Getting used to a new life is hard, and immigrants sometimes wonder if they've made they've made a mistake. | d. To become more familiar with a new Situation. |

B

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| 1, Craig Ferguson worked hard to become a well- known comedian in Scotland, but this main ambition was to be a successful entertainer in the U.S. | a. the quality of having many parts |
| 2. When he arrived in Hollywood, he was surprised by how different it looked from the image that he saw in his mind. He had not realized how big it would be. | b. A strong desire for success |
| 3. He was surprised by the complexity of the entertainment industry in America . It was huge and difficult to understand. | c. a picture, an idea of what something is like. |
| 4 When he was eventually hired to be a character on the TV show The Drew Carey Show, he finally felt a sense of Job security . | d. a feeling of being protected |