

**Writing Assignment #2 Personal/Creative Narrative (500-750 words)**

**Learning Objectives:** Students will develop their own narrative essay that considers various themes and structures from others passages we have read and analyzed. They will be able to brainstorm using their own experience, their knowledge of global culture and the texts we have read in order to tell their own story.

**Target Grammar:** Simple present and past, continuous tenses and time clauses

**Instructions:** You have read and analyzed four personal narratives. In “An Immigrant’s Silent Struggle,” Robert Cosi Tette writes about an immigrant who returns to his native country after being away for a long while and how difficult it was to “fit in” again. In “Language Chauvinism,” Cooper Thompson discusses the importance of speaking “native-like” English and how native speakers perceive non-native speakers as “Americans.” In “My Shitty First Draft,” Anne Lamott describes her writing process and how she developed the skills to become a good writer. Ann Patchett, in “My Year of No Shopping” describes a decision she made, explains why she made it and how the decision affected her.

- 1) Consider the four narrative essays and how we have analyzed them to determine to which story (content) and development (structure) you feel you can most relate.
- 2) Choose one and develop your own narrative by brainstorming ideas and sharing these ideas with your group. Make sure that you do not start to adopt other people’s experiences, as that will no longer be your personal story.
- 3) Use your ideas to develop an outline and create a timeline of the story you plan to tell. Pay special attention to when events occur so that you can use appropriate tenses.
- 4) Keeping in mind that each of the themes in the stories you did not select will relate to at least one element of your own narrative, create a chart to compare your experience. Note the following example:

Experience	My connection
Cosi Tette describes how going home after years of being away was extremely challenging because....	The first time I went back to the country where I was born after having been away for a while, it was .....
Thompson describes how impolite people are when he demonstrated less-than-native proficiency in English.	I noticed that when people heard me speak or saw me write English, they acted like....or they treated me .....
Lamott has a really difficult time learning to write restaurant reviews. She initially felt as though she was not going to be able to achieve excellence.	It was really difficult for me to learn to _____ because _____. It made me feel _____.
Patchett became highly motivated to accomplish her goal. She decided that for a year, she would not buy anything because .....	I have established goals that were difficult to keep. The most important goal I have ever tried to reach was to....It was not easy, but I ..... and was then able to accomplish it.

- 5) Remember that dialog can enhance the telling of a story. Consider not only what you were feeling during the time of your narrative, but also write down what you (and others) said during that time so you can improve on your story-telling.
- 6) In your concluding paragraph, you will need to tell how the events leading up to the end of your narrative are important to you. Write a final thought on how you learned from your experience.
- 7) Once you feel you are done telling your story, make sure to edit your work and proofread for spelling, grammar and punctuation errors.
- 8) When you finish your first draft, you will share your narrative with a partner. You will each have a narrative peer review worksheet to complete.
- 9) You will have two more opportunities to revise your draft to write your final essay.
- 10) If you include quotations from other passages, you must include them as in-text citations and create a "works cited" page.