

Please consider the following features of **Narrative Essays**:

- no set length (aim for 5 paragraphs)
- first person (I, we, us, me, myself)
- **specific** details = describe **actual scenes** from your life
  - development of your **emotions, thoughts**, and **voice (personality)** throughout
- use essay format:
  - introduction to set up the story (background information)
  - body paragraphs to tell the story (beginning, middle, end)
  - conclusion to show your thoughts/feelings about your story (**=reflection**)
- the focus is on your reflection of the story/event and how it has impacted you
- “spicy” words
- imagery; vivid description
- figurative language (similes, metaphors, personification, hyperbole)
- emphatic devices
- clearly developed tone
- appeal to 2-3 senses (specific words – effective diction)
- use transitions (temporal= time, spatial=space)

**\*pick a brief 15-60 minute event and be MEGA detailed**

Consider the following features of good **NARRATIVE** writing:

- ✓ Choose an interesting lead by beginning your story with:
  - a conversation
  - a description
  - background information (exposition)
  - a peek into a character's mind
  - a simile, metaphor, hyperbole, or pun:
  - a startling statement
  - a question
  - a quote from a song, movie, famous person or book
  
- ✓ Use some or all of the following techniques to create an interesting story:
  - **Snapshot** – describes a scene or part of a scene in vivid detail, using sensory details, concrete words, and figurative language.
  - **Thoughtshot** – reveals exact details about what a character is thinking, as well as their personality and motivation.
  - **Ping Pong Dialogue** – a back-and-forth conversation that includes quick exchanges of dialogue, between characters
  - **Descriptive Dialogue** – the gestures and body-language of characters are described while they are speaking, in addition to the dialogue