

English 10 • Prompt for Autobiographical Incident/Narrative Assignment

Instructions

IN PREPARATION for writing your autobiographical incident/narrative essay, read pages 404–411 in your *Language Network* book then pay close attention to the information below.

Overview

THE FIRST important thing to remember about a narrative essay is that *it tells a story*. The author may write about:

- ✦ *an experience or event from his or her past* OR
- ✦ *a recent or an ongoing experience or event*

THE SECOND important thing about a narrative essay is that *the story should have a point*. In the final paragraph, the author should come to an important conclusion about the experience that has just been described.

Structure Guide

AS YOU WRITE your personal narrative paper, be sure to pay careful attention to the following information.

1. AN ESSAY BEGINS with a general statement like, “Learning something new can be a scary experience.” This statement introduces the subject of the essay, which is a particular learning experience that the author had. The use of “I” in the essay indicates that what is being described is a personal experience.
2. AN ESSAY IS essentially a story about something that happened. The author gives sufficient details about the people, place, and events so that the reader gets a clear idea of how the author feels about them. In the essay, the author “stood timidly” and the teacher “smiled” and was “patient.” These words indicate the author’s fears and the sense of security provided by the teacher who helped the author get over her fear.
3. IN THE FINAL PARAGRAPH of the essay, the author reflects on the larger meaning or importance of the experience described. The author concludes that learning to swim has helped her to feel more confident about herself in other new situations. The idea that self-confidence comes from conquering your fears is something that all people can relate to. This is the point of the story.
4. THE ESSAY IS well-organized. After the introduction, the author describes the experience as it happened in time—going to the pool the first day, having the first lesson, and the result of the subsequent lessons. The author might have chosen, however, to talk about the things she learned in order of their importance or difficulty.
5. THE WRITING in an essay should be lively and interesting. Try to engage the reader’s interest by adding details or personal observations. Sharing personal thoughts and details invites the reader into the author’s world and makes the story more personal and more interesting. Refer to pages 387–401 “Developing Style” in your *Language Network* books.

AFTER READING **BOTH** passages from the *Language Network* book (pages 404–411 and pages 387–401), use the graphic organizer received in class to help you organize your thoughts for this assignments.

Overview

AS YOU COMPLETE this assignment be sure that you meet the specific guidelines listed.

Your paper should...

- INCLUDE *at least 2* rhetorical (literary) devices (*in bold*)
- BE *approximately 600 words* (exact word count should appear at the end of the final draft)
- GO THROUGH *all* writing workshop requirements (i.e. self/peer critiques, edits, revisions, etc.)
- FOLLOW MLA formatting specifications

Scoring

YOU WILL BE scored using the 6+1 Writing Traits rubric over Ideas/Content, Voice, and Word Choice. You must turn in all drafts and workshop materials. Your final draft will be worth 105 points.