

Personal Narrative Assignment

We are about to learn about a girl who finds herself inexplicably taken from her own family, home, and time, to a new, unfamiliar place. To help get you thinking about what you already know about this kind of situation, you are going to write a personal narrative describing a time in your life when you were in a new, unfamiliar place. Of course, your experiences may not be very dramatic compared to what we are about to read; it is fine if your experiences are “normal” or “typical.” You could write about going on a vacation to a strange place, going to a new school, or anything where you felt confused, out of place, or different.

Your narrative will need to be at least two pages long, double spaced, using a twelve-point font and one-inch margins.

You will need to include the following things in your narrative:

- A description of the new place or situation and why it was different from what you are used to
- How you responded to the situation
- What you learned from the situation

The following materials in this packet are designed to help you formulate ideas, organize your ideas, and express your ideas.

Brainstorming Topics for Your Narrative

To help you come up with some ideas for a story for your personal narrative, try considering and answering the following questions:


1. What are some unfamiliar or new places that you have been in? Remember, such places can be as far away as another country or as close as a neighbor's house or a new classroom. Quickly list as many as you can think of.



2. Now, pick three of these places and, for each one, list some reasons why they were different from what you were used to. Did people act differently? Were there different rules? Be as specific and detailed as possible.

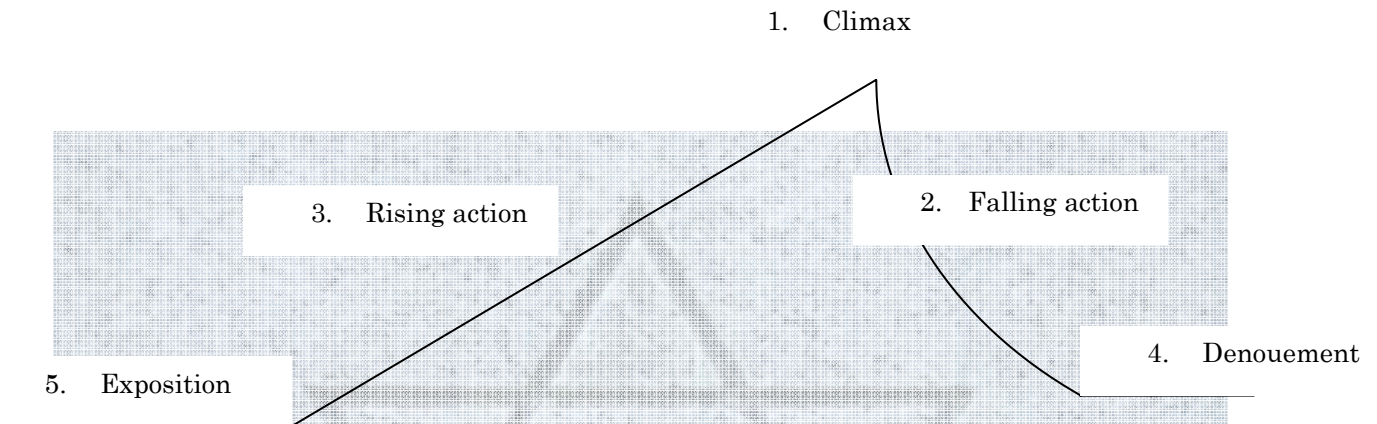


3. Next, start thinking about what you learned from these new places or experiences. Did you see things differently after this experience? Use the table below to help you organize your ideas.

What was different?	How was it different from me?	How did I change/ What did I learn?
		

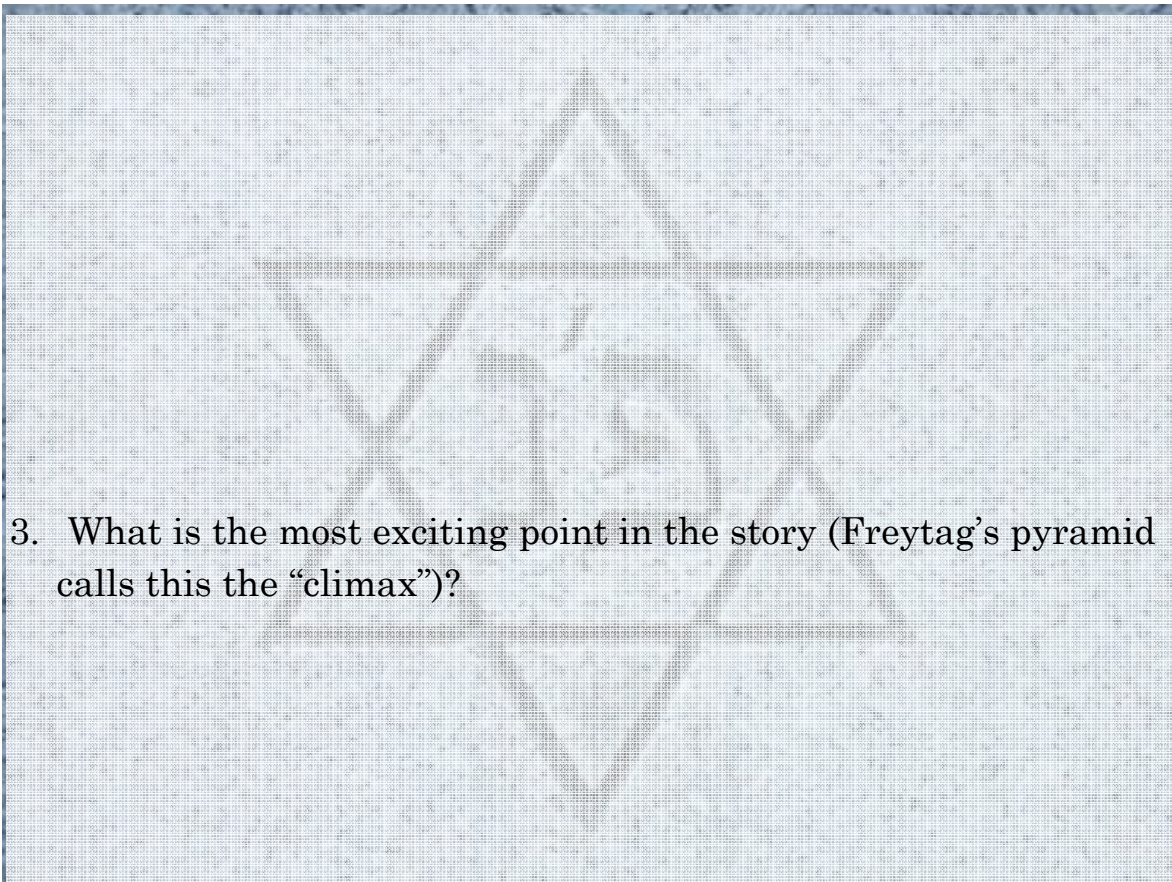
Outlining Your Plot

Remember when we talked about Freytag's pyramid? Well, now it's time for you to be the author and use this model to help you organize your story.

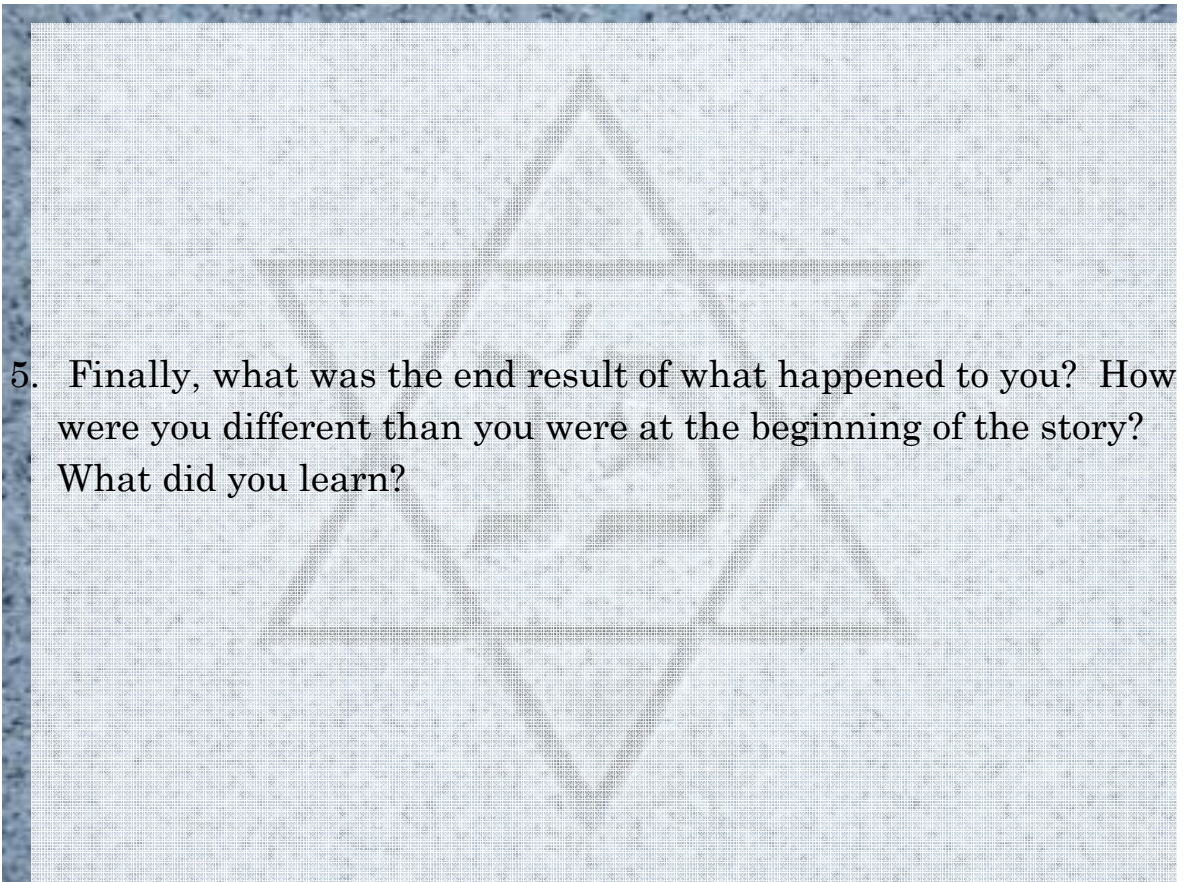


1. For your exposition, you are going to want to describe the setting, the characters, and your own characteristics – particularly the attitudes, ideas, or personality traits that are going to change during the story. Take a moment to jot down a quick list of the people, places, and parts of yourself and your personality that your reader will need to understand in order to understand the rest of your story.

2. Most stories have a series of events that make your story exciting and drive the plot forward. In chronological order, list the *main* events that happened.



4. What happened after this exciting moment? Did things calm down? Did your feelings change? What was different after the climax?



5. Finally, what was the end result of what happened to you? How were you different than you were at the beginning of the story? What did you learn?

Rough Draft

Using your outlining sheet as a model or starting point, write your first draft of your narrative. You should use good mechanics and style, but for right now, I want you to focus most on making sure that your story flows and makes sense. You can do this here on the provided sheets, on your own notebook paper, or type it on a computer at home.

Peer Revision Sheet

Get with a partner. Have that partner fill out the following sheet *honestly*, and do the same for your partner. Remember: your responsibility is to help make your partner's paper better, and to use your partner's suggestions to make your paper better.

Your Name: _____

Reviewer's Name: _____

Read through the narrative one time. Answer the following questions:

1. Does the narrative make sense? Can you follow the sequence of events?
2. What information could be included to make the story clearer? More interesting? More exciting?
3. Underline anything that is confusing or difficult to understand.

4. Does the paper follow a logical order? Should any information be put in a different place? Where should it be put instead?

5. Now, go through the paper, and label the beginning of the different parts of Freytag's Pyramid (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution). Are any parts missing?

Peer Editing Sheet

After you've made the any changes suggested by your partner on the Revision Sheet (or any changes you yourself thought was necessary), meet with a different partner than your revision partner and ask him or her to complete the following sheet and instructions for your paper. Do the same for your partner. Again, remember to be honest, polite, and do your best to help your partner turn in the best paper possible.

Your Name: _____

Reviewer's Name: _____

1. Are any words misspelled? Underline them in the paper. Check a dictionary if you are unsure.
2. Is everything correctly capitalized? Circle any errors on the paper.
3. Do all verbs agree with their subjects (i.e. "you are" instead of "you is", "they go" instead of "they goes")? Underline any errors.
4. Are all of the sentences correctly constructed? Underline any fragments or run-on sentences.
5. Is punctuation used correctly? Circle any errors.

Grading Rubric

/50 Content

- Narrative describes a situation in which the author was in an unfamiliar situation
- Narrative describes what the situation was and what was unfamiliar or different about it.
- Narrative describes how the author changed or what he or she learned.

/40 Organization

- Narrative follows a logical, chronological order
- Narrative clearly includes the elements in Freytag's pyramid.
- Narrative is easy to understand and follow

/10 Mechanics

- Narrative has few if any grammatical errors
- Narrative has few if any punctuation or capitalization errors
- Sentences are clear and easy to understand.