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## The Personal Narrative

When writing a personal narrative, you recount an experience or a memory in essay form. This can be done for several different purposes, usually to inform and/or entertain readers; for example, you may be asked to write a personal narrative recalling an experience that caused you to grow or change in some way. In this example, you would think back to a time (whether it be several weeks or several years in the past) when you experienced a situation that made you change your outlook on life or your personal goals or values. It is also useful to make a list of such experiences, and then build from the list a full account of one particular experience.

Once you've decided on the personal experience that you wish to write about, it is a good idea to list every sensory detail that you can possibly remember about the experience. Sensory details include any tastes, smells, colors, sounds, or physical feelings that you associate with an experience. To continue with the example, if you were writing about how running on the cross country team in high school caused you to grow as a person, you could include sensory details such as "seeing the vivid emerald grass" and "tasting salty sweat" during your very first race. Strong descriptors and adjectives help bring sensory details to life for your readers, so make sure to include them.



Writing a personal narrative can be a very enjoyable experience; it is always interesting to share a personal anecdote with readers so that they, too, might gain or learn something from your writing. Just remember that you are also writing to entertain readers, so make sure to use a unique or fascinating personal experience for your narrative.