

# Writing 2

## Chapter Two: Narrative Essays

### Narrative Essays

- What is a ***Narrative Essay*** ?

A narrative Essay tells a story.

- Even though the narrative essay has the same basic form as most other academic essays, it allows the writer to be more creative than academic essay usually do.

## Narrative Essays

- **Several important elements make up a story:**

- 1) Setting : the location where the action in a story happens.
- 2) Theme: the basic idea of the story. Very often the theme will deal with a topic that is common in life or human nature, such as greed, envy, love, independence, and so on.
- 3) Mode: the feeling or atmosphere that the writer creates for the story. It could be happy, hopeful, suspenseful, or scary. Both the setting and descriptive vocabulary create the mood in a narrative.

## Narrative Essays

- 4) Characters: the people in the story. They are affected by the mood, and they react to the events in which they are involved.
- 5) 5) Plot: what happens in the story, that is, the sequence of events. The plot often includes a climax or turning point at which the characters or events change.

## Narrative Essays

### • The Introduction:

The introduction is the paragraph that begins your story. This is where you describe the setting, introduce the characters, and prepare the reader for the action to come. Of course, the introduction should have a hook and a thesis.

### ✓ The Narrative Hook:

Usually the first sentence or two- **that grabs readers' attention**. Hooks are especially important in narrative essays because they help "**set the stage**" for the story. The hook makes readers start guessing about what will happen next.

## Narrative Essays

### **An example of a good hook:**

*I had never been more anxious in my life. I had just spent the last three endless hours trying to get to the airport so that I could travel home.*

### **It makes the reader asks:**

Who is the narrator and why is he or she anxious?

Where is the airport?

What made the trip to the airport seem endless?

Why is this person going home?

## Narrative Essays

### ✓The Thesis

Usually the thesis *states the main idea of the essay and tells what the organization of the information will be*. However, in a narrative essay the thesis *introduce the action that begins in the first paragraph of the essay*.

#### Examples of thesis statements:

*Now, as I watched the bus driver set my luggage on the airport sidewalk, I realized that my frustration had only just begun.*

*Because his pride wouldn't allow him to apologize, Ken now had to fight the bully, and he was pretty sure that he wouldn't win.*

## Narrative Essays

The example sentences do not tell the reader what happens. They only introduce the action that will follow. The paragraph in the body will develop the story.

### • The Body:

The body of your narrative essay contains most of the plot- the supporting information.

The action in the plot can be organized in many different ways.

- ❑ chronological, or time order: in this method each paragraph gives more information about the story as it proceeds in time: the first paragraph usually describe the first event, the second paragraph describes the second event and so on.

## Narrative Essays

- **Transitional Sentences:**

In a chronological organization, each paragraph ends with a transitional sentence.

Transitional sentences have two purposes:

- 1) To signal the end of action in one paragraph
- 2) To provide a link to the action of the next paragraph.

These sentences are vital because they give your story unity and allow the reader to follow the action easily.

See page 40 for examples.

## Narrative Essays

- **The conclusion:**

Like academic essays, narrative essays need to have concluding ideas. In the concluding paragraph, you finish describing the action in the essay. The final sentence can have two functions:

- 1) It can deliver the moral for the story, or tell the reader what the characters learned from the experience.
- 2) It can make a prediction or a revelation ( disclosure of something that was not known before) about future actions that will happen as a result of the events in the story.

## Narrative Essays

### ❑ Effective narrative essays ( writer's note)

There are three elements in an effective narrative essay:

1. A thesis that sets up the action in the introduction
2. Transition sentences that connect events and help the reader follow the story.
3. A conclusion that ends the story action and provides a moral or revelation.