

Lesson 22: You Will Learn What a Narrative Essay is All About

Purpose of Lesson 22: You will learn what a narrative essay is all about.

Skills: Creative thinking, critical thinking, reading comprehension, vocabulary, and writing.

Words to Learn:

complete sentence - A sentence must contain a subject (person, place or thing) and a verb (action word): *The student used a complete sentence.*

composing - writing: *The student was composing the life story of her friend.*

connector words - words that link paragraphs together in a logical way: *Some good connector words are “next week” and “finally.”*

edit - revise and correct: *The newspaper article was edited before it was sent.*

indent - to space in from the margin for each new paragraph: *Don’t forget to indent your new paragraph.*

midwife - someone who helps to deliver a baby: *The midwife had to deliver twins.*

narrative essay - an essay that tells a story about someone or yourself: *A narrative essay is easy to write because you can write about actual experiences.*

relevant - suitable, pertaining to: *The sentence was relevant to the topic.*

revision - correction: *Bella made a revision to her essay.*

timeline - a map of dates or events in a chronological (time) order: *We used a timeline to understand the events leading to World War II.*


tribute - a story which honors a person, place or event: *Eva read a tribute to her aunt at the reunion.*

vivid - very clear and bright: *The ocean was a vivid blue.*

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Directions: Read the conversation below and complete the exercises that follow.

1




What are you writing?

2




Dad has asked me to write a **tribute** to Aunt Gloria for the family reunion and newsletter. I never did this before, and I have to get it done by next week.

3




What exactly is a tribute? I know it's some of speech, right?

4




Sort of. It's a story honoring the life of a person. I will be **composing** it since I knew her best.

5



Wow! A tribute is like a narrative essay. In school we are doing narrative writing. I can help you and also do a writing assignment. I know it will be easy, because you are a wonderful storyteller.

6



Great idea, Bella. I will learn about writing a narrative essay, and you will learn about Aunt Gloria and her life.

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First, we have to decide on the purpose and audience of our essay.

8

That's easy – I am writing about Aunt Gloria, and the purpose is to tell about her life. My audience will be our relatives at the reunion, and those who receive the newsletter.



9



Next, we have to brainstorm to gather information to gather information. I will ask you questions about Aunt Gloria and I will add some of my memories of her. Maybe I will even interview some of her friends.

10

I will make a timeline with all the important events and dates in her life, from birth to death.



As you can see, Mrs. Mack and Bella have started the pre-writing process. Next, they must organize the information and ideas into the parts of an essay:

- The introduction paragraph contains a thesis statement that presents the main idea.
- Supporting paragraphs (in the order of events) bring readers or listeners on a “journey” through Aunt Gloria’s life.
- The conclusion paragraph is to “wrap it up”.

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Brainstorm / Interview / W/H Questions:

- When was she born?
- When did she get married?
- What happened at her birth?
- What kind of work did she do?
- How did she get the name “Gloria?”
- Where did she live?
- How many brothers or sisters did she have?
- What did she look like?
- What things were important to her?
- What was she good at doing?
- What did she do for fun?
- What problems did she have?
- Did she have children? Grandchildren?
- What did you like about her?
- What kind of a childhood did she have?
- What did others say about her?
- What disease did she have?

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Brainstorming Information:

• Born Jan. 20, 1925	• Married, Sept. 1948
• Was not breathing at birth, but survived	• Worked as bookkeeper
• Father named her for a miracle	• Lived in New York, retired to FL
• Had 1 brother, Eugene, 2 sisters, Jennie, Ann	• Petite, dark, pretty, giggler
• Family, friends, religion important	• Death of children
• Tomboy, mischievous, tree climber	• Car accident • Good dancer, cook ,baker, played organ
• Liked to travel, have family gatherings	• Generous, courageous, honest, neat • Back problems
• Had 1 son, Joseph, 1 daughter, Doreen(both died)	• Cared for sister
• Had 2 grandchildren, Mary, Joseph	• Died of pancreatic cancer

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Timeline Information

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. birth - Jan. 20, 1925 | 4. birth of children
1951, 1952 | 7. cared for
elderly sister | 10. car accident
Oct. 2007 |
| 2. childhood, family | 5. death of children
1969, 1989 | 8. family
celebrations | 11. death – Jan.
26, 2008 |
| 3. marriage 1948 | 6. physical
problems, back. | 9. retirement to
Florida 2003 | |

Continued after Quiz 1



Now look at Quiz 2 and compare your grouping of ideas with Mrs. Mack and Bella's event boxes in this quiz.

Note: Your groupings of ideas are different topics than Mrs. Mack and Bella's.

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11



Well, I think we are ready to look at what we wrote and make any changes as far as presenting a picture of Aunt Gloria for all to remember.

12



Yes, Bella. Your checklist for revising an essay is very helpful and easy to follow.

Revision Checklist

Yes	No	Response to a Prompt (direction)
-----	----	----------------------------------

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| | | 1. Does your essay have a thesis (main idea) that is clear? |
| | | 2. Does the essay stick to the topic? (It does not wander). |

Organization

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | 3. Does the essay have an introduction that includes the thesis of the essay? |
| | | 4. Does each following paragraph have a topic sentence (main idea)? |
| | | 5. Does each paragraph have details that support the main idea?
Look for at least two details for each paragraph. |
| | | 6. Is the information arranged in a logical way? |
| | | 7. Does the essay contain only information that is relevant to the essay? |
| | | 8. Does the essay have a conclusion? |

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Draft Paragraph 1

1

6

Gloria Salis was born on January 20, 1925. Her father had to choose between his wife

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or his newborn baby girl. He was a butcher. The **midwife** is facing terrible complications. Louis chose to save Mary; he could not leave his two daughters without a mother. He begged the midwife to work on the baby who was not breathing. It was a miracle, the baby survived. Louis named her, "Gloria".

Revised Paragraph 1

Gloria Salis was a born survivor. On January 20, 1925, Louis Marcos was forced to choose between his wife, Mary, and their newborn baby, when the **midwife** is facing life-threatening complications. Louis chose to save Mary, he could not leave his two daughters without a mother. He begged the midwife to work on the baby who was not breathing. Time was running out, but by some miracle, the baby survived. Louis named her, "Gloria".

Continued after Quiz 7



Below is the Editing Checklist used to edit the example:
Revised Paragraph 1. The numbers and letters above the sentences indicate the errors made. After you review the edits in the example paragraph, attempt the Edit Paragraphs Quizzes 2-5 using the checklist for your answers.

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Editing Checklist

1. Sentences:

Yes No (Revise for each number that you mark no)

- ☐ ☐ a. Are they complete?
- ☐ ☐ b. Are they interesting? Do they have vivid language?
- ☐ ☐ c. Are they the right size (not too long or too choppy)?
- ☐ ☐ d. Is there overuse of the same word?
- ☐ ☐ e. Is the first sentence of each paragraph indented?

2. Parts of speech:

- ☐ ☐ a. Is there proper use of nouns and pronouns?
- ☐ ☐ b. Are verbs in the correct tense?
- ☐ ☐ c. Is there noun-verb agreement?
- ☐ ☐ d. Is there proper use of adjectives and adverbs?

3. Punctuation:

- ☐ ☐ a. Are commas used correctly?
- ☐ ☐ b. Is there proper punctuation at the end of each sentence?
- ☐ ☐ c. Is there a need for a semi-colon instead of a comma?

4. Capitalization:

- ☐ ☐ a. Are all proper nouns capitalized?
- ☐ ☐ b. Is the first word of every sentence capitalized?

5. Spelling:

- ☐ ☐ a. Are all words spelled correctly?

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6. Abbreviations:

- a. Are the abbreviations used correctly in a sentence?

Now it's time to edit the revised draft. The first paragraph has been done for you. Follow the example in the proceeding quizzes.

Example

Revised Paragraph 1

1e

(1)Gloria Salis was a born survivor.(2)On January 20,1925,Louis Marcos was forced to

2b

choose between his wife, Mary, and their newborn baby, when the midwife is facing

3b

life-threatening complications. (3)Louis chose to save Mary, he could not leave his two

4b 5a

daughters without a mother, he begged the midwife to work on the baby who was not breathing. Time was running out, but by some miracle, the baby survived. Louis named her, "Gloria".