

English 1301

The Narrative Essay Exercise

Instructions

Write a paper of narrative that relates the essential events of a story of your personal experience that illustrates a) a lesson you learned, b) a new insight, c) a new beginning, or d) an ethical principle.

Your choice should have meaning and value for a real audience.

Development

Your paper should be approximately four to five pages handwritten and should follow the plan for the traditional “thesis-support” essay with a separate introductory paragraph, a body, and a concluding paragraph.

Throughout the development of your paper remind the reader of the purpose/thesis of your story so that the events don’t seem to ramble.

If it is not necessary to follow strictly a chronological sequence, then save your most important experience or detail for the last part of the body of the paper.

Submission

Your paper is to be completed and submitted by November 20th. Turn in two copies of your paper: 1) your notes or rough drafts, and 2) the final copy stapled to the top of your notes or rough draft.

Evaluation

Your paper will be judged on the basis of the following criteria:

- 1) completion of the essay according to these instructions
- 2) demonstration of your ability to organize and develop a paper of narrative for an appropriate audience
- 3) demonstration of your ability to write a paper that reflects the conventions of standard American written English
- 4) sufficient development to fulfill your purpose and the interests/needs of the audience