

First and Last Name

ENG 100

Formal Assignment #2: Narrative Project, Draft # _

Due Date: Draft #1 posted to your narrative project web page by 11:59 pm on Sunday, 2.24 *You can revise this story as often as you like until the end of the semester. Post each draft to your web page to show the revisions you've made.

Formal Assignment #2: Narrative Project

Prompt: Please write a narrative about a moment from your past that evoked a powerful emotion in you. The story must be about you and must emerge from a real experience in your life. "You can't make this stuff up!" (Lee Gutkind). This assignment requires at least two drafts to meet the revision criteria for a course grade of a B.

Rhetorical Mode: Narration.

Genre: Creative Nonfiction. "True stories well told." (Lee Gutkind).

Sub-Genre: Memoir

Purpose: Entertain. Consider secondary and tertiary purposes: Persuade and Inform.

Audience: Your primary audience is your instructor and classmates. Your secondary audience is people who visit your website.

Style: This is a creative nonfiction narrative so please blend both descriptive (showing) and expository (telling) writing. Feel free to include dialogue, poetry, video, and audio. Please use the diction and tone that are most appropriate for your purpose and audience.

Focus: Through one or more scenes, please use narrative writing to show a moment of emotion from your storied life. Please focus on one particular event that occurred during one short timeframe.

Writers' Choices: Please consider the context, text, and subtext of your story:

- *Context:* Your story should include a setting and situated information that frames the plot (similar to kairos). To create context, your story should provide the 5 Ws: Who, What, When, Where, and Why.
- *Text:* I ask that your story opens with a showing scene that includes description and action. Then you can add sections of telling to provide context and reflection. Use symbols and/or motifs. Remember Lee Gutkind points out that showing scenes are the building blocks of a creative nonfiction narrative.
- *Subtext:* Your story is not much of a story if it does not include subtext ("what's left unsaid and under the surface of the text"). To create subtext, please consider **themes** (joy, fear, anger) and **conflict** (character v person | v self | v environment | v nature, etc.). Your story must have conflict.

Process: To begin, review your narrative blog posts—and the blog posts authored by your classmates. Next, *Think On Paper* about the issues surrounding the life event: freewrite, list, cluster, discuss, and read other creative nonfiction stories to generate ideas. Then, please consider answering one of the following questions in your own creative nonfiction narrative (if you have another idea for a question and topic, please email me first):

- What high-stake choices (made by you or someone else) evoke positive or negative feelings for you?
- What physical objects evoke emotion in you?
- With whom do you share strong emotional connections?
- What are the big wins and losses in your life?
- What physical places evoke emotion in you?

Product: This narrative should be around 1,000 words and formatted as follows: one-inch margins, 12-point font, and double-spaced. Please include an original title centered at the top of the essay. This doesn't count as an original title: *Narrative Project*. We will use these criteria to evaluate how your narrative:

- _____ uses an opening scene to jump right into the action;
- _____ uses one or more scenes (description + action + theme) to build the narrative;
- _____ focuses on a clear action frame (takes place over a short period of time);
- _____ illustrates a clear structure (showing and telling sections are well-integrated and cohesive);
- _____ includes reflective “telling” moments that provide context and heart/mind insights;
- _____ incorporates symbolic details to illustrate an over-arching theme of emotion;
- _____ explores at least one literary conflict;
- _____ uses language that is appropriate and compelling for your audience (tone, style, diction);
- _____ shows signs of careful proofreading, with minimal grammatical or spelling errors.

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