

Lesson Blueprints: Writing Project

Resource: Narrative Writing Prompts and Rubric

Grade Level: Middle and High School

Narrative Writing Prompts

Narrative writing tells a story of an event or an experience. Sometimes the narrative is personal, describing an actual event that — usually — has happened to the writer, and other times is completely fictional. Good narrative writing includes:

- Elements of story (character, location, conflict, plot, theme)
- Interesting details and descriptions
- A satisfying conclusion OR suspenseful “cliffhanger” ending to story

The following are personal narrative prompts that support SEL topics and require the elements of good narrative writing:

- Describe a time when you misjudged a person based on his or her appearance OR when someone misjudged you.
- Tell about a time you had to deal with a big disappointment.
- Describe a time a lie had major consequences for you.
- Describe a major event in your life and what it taught you about yourself or others.
- Describe a time you put yourself at risk physical, socially, emotionally, or professionally to do the right thing.
- Describe a time that you predicted would be negative and it turned out to be positive.
- Tell a story about a time had to handle an uncomfortable situation.
- Tell a story about a time you failed and how you dealt with or used the failure to your benefit
- Tell about a time you had to do something on your own for the first time.
- Tell about a time you pretended to be someone you are not.
- Tell a story about an event or a memory that makes you very happy.
- Describe a time you had to control your emotions in order to keep a situation from becoming worse than it already was.
- Describe a time you were involved in any of the roles associated with bullying: the victim, the bully, or the bystander.
- Tell a story about a time your persistence paid off.
- Describe a time you realized someone you admire was imperfect.
- Tell about a time you created something original.
- Tell about a time you started, saved, or ended a relationship.

Narrative Writing Rubric

Student: _____

Topic: _____

Category	4	3	2	1	Score
Elements of story: Character, location, conflict, plot, theme	Student develops interesting, compelling, and unique character/s, location/s, conflict/s, plotline and theme.	Student develops interesting character/s, location/s, conflict/s, plotline and theme.	Student includes character/s, location/s, conflict/s, and a plotline.	Student includes at least one of the elements of story.	
Content – Interesting details and descriptions	Student includes unique, interesting details and descriptions that relate to and support story.	Student includes many interesting details and descriptions that support the story.	Student includes three or more details and descriptions that support the story.	Student includes little or no details or descriptions to support the story.	
Conclusion	The narrative has a compelling and satisfying conclusion OR a suspenseful cliff hanger.	The narrative has a somewhat satisfying conclusion OR a slightly suspenseful cliff hanger.	The narrative has a conclusion OR an attempt at a cliff hanger.	The narrative has no conclusion to the story.	
Writing – Technical Grammar, punctuation and word choice	Student demonstrates excellent presentation skills, style, grammar, and punctuation.	Student’s writing style, purpose, audience, grammar, and punctuation are all fair and indicative.	Information is mislabeled or missing; inaccurate punctuation or grammar.	Student’s grammar, punctuation, and choice of words are poor.	
					Total