

ELA 8

Personal Narrative

Task: Write a true story about a memory or experience that has had an impact on your life. Include **how** this memory (it can be an event or a person) affected you. In this task you are trying to learn something from a personal experience. You would like to share that experience, your feelings, and the lesson you learned with others. **Your story should be at least 500 words.**

Type (word process) your paper (14 pt font and double spaced) on a Google Doc. Use spell check and grammar check. Submit through Google Classroom.

As you **brainstorm**, be sure to:

- Tell: Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How
 - focus on one central event
 - set the scene; make the setting clear
 - use vivid description to create an emotional mood
 - “name names”: use specific words
 - use similes and metaphors
 - use dialogue and punctuate the dialogue correctly
 - reflect upon your experience and to make sense of it
- gain understanding about yourself and the world you live in

Reflection Questions:

1. Did you clearly set the scene of your event and describe the situation in detail?
2. Did you use **dialogue** effectively to help the reader relive the scene?
3. Did you offer insights about what you learned from your experience?

Resources: Handouts 35-1, 35-5, 36-1; Papa Was an American; Two Tickets; A Little Coaching; Elaboration Techniques, p. 1 of ELA Text Pack; Rules for punctuating dialogue.