# Narrative Essay Outline

The following outline is typical for developing a narrative essay.

Tips for Narratives

• Show, don’t tell.

• Use description of all five senses to make your writing come alive.

• Create a meaningful conflict to drive your narrative.

• Add details to make your reader emotionally involved with your story.

• Make sure the resolution of the story fits the purpose and plot you have developed.

• Make sure your reader can understand what is happening.

• Use dialogue to show what your characters are like.

• Choose details that serve your purpose.

• Use the template below as a guide, but be creative.

1. **Introduction**

* Attention-getter/hook
* Significance of topic (to you, to your reader)
* Thesis (What is the central idea you want to get across with your essay?)

1. **Set-up**

- Background about event—to allow a reader to understand

- History of people or event

- Relevant details about the event

People involved

* Description of relevant physical characteristics
* Description of relevant personality characteristics

Setting

* Description of setting using five senses
* Explanation of significance of the setting

Short anecdote or foreshadowing

* Details establishing conflict
* Details establishing the stakes for people

1. **Beginning of Event**

* Explain how things started to happen
* How what people did to reach the point where the event was imminent—point of no return
* Detailed sensory description of what happened
* Feelings about what happened

1. **Middle of Event**

* Things come to a head
* Detailed sensory description
* Feelings about what happened

1. **Resolution of Event**

* Tell how things end up
* Sum up the event