

## Paper 1: A Story of the 2020 Pandemic

**Length: approximately 2.5 - 3 pages, typed.**

**The paper must conform to standard college format (double-spaced, 1" margins, 12-point font, name and other identifying information in the upper-left-hand corner).**

For this essay, you will write a personal narrative about a significant (to you) experience you've had during the pandemic of 2020. It doesn't have to be **dramatic** (lots of people have found the pandemic lockdowns to be profoundly boring), but it should be important or significant to you. Again, dealing with boredom could be a significant experience. It could be a positive experience, a negative experience or a mixture of the two. You could tell a story about a single incident or a string of incidents that illustrate a theme about your experience during the pandemic.

One thing you will want to consider in writing this narrative is what kind of story you want to tell. Is it a sad story? A funny one? A tale of frustration?

You will not write an explicit thesis for this paper, but a reader should be able to figure out what you want this story to **say about** your experience; all the parts of the narrative should work toward creating this implicit statement.

Narrative tells a story by presenting events in an order that makes sense to a reader. For example, a writer might arrange her paragraphs chronologically; another writer might order his ideas thematically. Your transitions will be very important in this essay since they will announce the relationship between your ideas.

A vivid and engaging narrative also includes rich, specific detail so that a reader might see, feel, touch, smell, and taste the things described. To do this, you will want to give special attention to your word choices: are they concrete, evocative, precise? Are your verbs specific and lively? You may also want to use figurative language to describe your experience.

### **Evaluation Criteria:**

- The writer *tells a story* about a significant experience during the 2020 pandemic.
- The beginning of the narrative captures the reader's attention and sets him/her up to understand the rest of the story.

- It is clear what the writer wants to **say about** her/his experience s/he narrates.
- The story has an effective organization (whether chronological or thematic).
- The writer uses specific detail, vivid description, figurative language to illustrate her/his story and convey its tones and ideas.