

Narrating an Event

Overview: For this assignment, you will write about an event. In *Bird by Bird*, Anne Lamott quotes Flannery O'Connor as saying, "everyone who survived childhood has enough material to write for the rest of his or her life" (30). I think that this can be said about the teenage years as well. Think about an event that has happened to you that you wouldn't mind sharing with the class. It should be a relatively recent event. Aspects that you can look for in your event and that make for a good story:

1. The event takes place over a short amount of time.
2. There should have been some conflict or internal struggle.
3. This event should be significant to you and one that others can identify with.
4. The event should reveal strong and possibly complex or ambivalent feelings.

Purpose: Storytelling is an important skill. People are drawn to stories, whether in presentation form or in written form. The narrative arc, aka storytelling, is versatile and is used in many ways to relay all kinds of information. We tell stories even when we interview for a job. This assignment brushes up on your skills to set up a good story with conflict, characters, and action. Details and description are important to making the story stand out for the reader.

Audience: Your audience will be members of the class and your instructor.

Format: Follow guidelines listed in handout entitled "Essay Setup"

Length: second and subsequent drafts must be 3 double spaced pages (900-1500 words)

Due Dates

May 8th first draft

May 9th peer review (read two other drafts and provide comments, email the writer, and cc me)

May 10th instructor draft

Other Considerations:

1. Use Standard English grammar and mechanics.
2. Use creativity with this assignment.
3. Submit your essay on time.
4. Have fun with this assignment.

Reading for this unit:

"Losing My Innocence" D2L

"Henry County" D2L