

Developmental Composition

Essay #1

Length: 500-750 words (1.5-2 word-processed, double-spaced pages)

Value: 50 points

Rough Draft Due: Monday, June 3

Final Draft Due: Thursday, June 6

Choose one of the nine possible essay assignments on p. 128. Pay particular attention to the four basics of good narration (p. 113) and to the common time transitions (p. 121). You might wish to read chapter 39, "Narration," for insight, as well. You must turn in your rough draft along with your final draft.

Intro

- Point A

= Point B

- Point C

IV Conclusion

RESOURCES Reproducible peer-review guides for different kinds of papers are available in *Additional Resources* and online at bedfordstmartins.com/realwriting.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



JENNY HAUN wrote the Four Basics of Good Narration paragraph on page 113. Getting more involved in college and community activities, as Jenny did, can help you feel more connected to others and can even improve the chances that you will stay in school.

For more on this story, ways to make community connections, and writing assignments, visit bedfordstmartins.com/realwriting.

Write Your Own Narration

In this section, you will write your own narration based on one of the following assignments. For help, refer to the “How to Write Narration” checklist on page 130.

ASSIGNMENT OPTIONS Writing about College, Work, and Everyday Life

Write a narration paragraph or essay on one of the following topics or on one of your own choice. If you responded to the idea journal prompt on page 115, you might develop that writing further.

COLLEGE

- Tell the story of how a teacher made a difference in your life.
- Write about a time when you achieved success or experienced a difficulty in school.
- Interview a college graduate about his or her educational experience. Questions might include “Why did you go to college?” “What were your biggest challenges?” and “What were your greatest accomplishments?” Then, write that person’s story.

WORK

- Write about a situation or incident that made you decide to leave a job.
- Imagine a successful day at your current or previous job. Then, tell the story of that day, including examples of successes.
- Write your own work history, guided by a statement that you would like to make about this history or your work style. Here is one example: “Being a people person has helped me in every job I have ever had.” You might imagine that you are interviewing with a potential employer.

EVERYDAY LIFE

- Write about an experience that triggered a strong emotion: happiness, sadness, fear, anger, regret.
- Find a campus community service club that offers short-term assignments. Take an assignment and write about your experience.
- Tell the story of a community issue that interests you. One example is plans to create a bike lane on a major road. Discuss how the issue arose, and describe key developments. Research details by visiting a local newspaper’s Web site.

ASSIGNMENT OPTIONS Reading and Writing Critically

Complete one of the following assignments, which ask you to apply the critical thinking, reading, and writing skills discussed in Chapter 1.

Writing

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Writing

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2. Topic sentence/Thesis: _____

- Event: _____
 Detail: _____

- Event: _____
 Detail: _____

- Event: _____
 Detail: _____

Organization in Narration

Narration usually presents events in the order in which they happened, known as **time (chronological) order**. As shown in the paragraph and essay models on pages 117–18, a narration starts at the beginning of the story and describes events as they unfolded.

TIP For more on time order, see page 78.

Transitions move readers from one event to the next.

after	eventually	meanwhile	since
as	finally	next	soon
at last	first	now	then
before	last	once	when
during	later	second	while

PRACTICE 5 Using Transitions in Narration

Read the paragraph that follows, and fill in the blanks with time transitions.

Answers may vary. Possible answers are shown.

Some historians believe that as many as four hundred women disguised themselves as men so that they could serve in the U.S. Civil War (1861–1865). One of the best known of these women was Sarah Emma Edmonds. Once the war began, Edmonds, an opponent

You often use narration:

- You explain a TV episode to a friend who missed it.
- You say, "You won't believe what happened." Then, you tell the story.

write for 2 minutes about what makes a good story or a good telling of events.

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Narration

Writing That Tells Important Stories

Understand What Narration Is

Narration is writing that tells the story of an event or an experience.

Four Basics of Good Narration

- 1 It reveals something of importance to the writer (the main point).
- 2 It includes all the major events of the story (primary support).
- 3 It brings the story to life with details about the major events (secondary support).
- 4 It presents the events in a clear order, usually according to when they happened.

In the following paragraph, the numbers and colors correspond to the Four Basics of Good Narration.

1 Last year, a writing assignment that I hated produced the best writing I have done. **2** When my English teacher told us that our assignment would be to do a few hours of community service and write about it, I was furious. **3** I am a single mother, I work full-time, and I am going to school: Isn't that enough? **2** The next day, I spoke to my teacher during her office hours and told her that I was already so busy that I could hardly make time for homework, never mind housework. My own life was too full to help with anyone else's life. **3** She said that she understood perfectly and that the majority of her students had lives as full as mine. Then, she explained that the service assignment was just for four hours and that other students had enjoyed both doing the assignment

4 Events in time order