

Essay 2 – Narrative

Due Dates:**Drafts for Conferences – Monday, 9/14****Drafts for Peer Review – Wednesday, 9/23** Mon 21 11:45**Submission Date – Friday, 9/25****Length: 3-4 pages (approximately 900-1200 words)****Value: 100 points (10%)**

Assignment: Write a narrative regarding one of the following themes below set during your first day on campus. Your audience is made up of your friends from home who are not attending USA.

1. *Old self versus new self:* You perceive a change in yourself as a result of some transforming moment or event.
2. *Old view of person X versus new view of person X:* Your perception of an individual (a friend, a relative) changes as a result of some revealing moment or event.
3. *Old values versus new values:* You confront an outsider or new, unfamiliar situation that challenges your worldview, or your worldview experiences a crisis that creates a conflict in values.

If you would prefer to write about a different day, speak with me first.

Getting Started

You already have written a series of journals on this topic. You can treat them as early drafts or parts of your discovery process.

Reminders

Whereas Essay 1 was a closed-form essay – you had to mold the subject matter to fit the form – this is an open-form essay – you let the subject matter determine the form. Nonetheless, your essay will need to include several elements from chapters 4, 6, and 18. As a narrative, it should *unfold through time*, and it needs to have *plot*, *character*, *setting*, and a clear *theme*. As we practiced last week, it should have an *establishing shot* (a visual image that sets a scene), a *reaction shot* (a moment of emotional response to something), and a *point-of-view shot* (a moment where you step out of the narrative and show the scene from someone else's perspective). The events of your narrative must be *connected*; the story needs *tension* or *conflict* that creates anticipation in your readers; and it needs a *resolution*, *recognition*, or *retrospective interpretation*, a closing moment that suggests the significance of your experience. Finally, it should make strategic use of *concrete words* to evoke images and *abstract words* to make generalizations and suggest interpretations.

Drafts on Monday and Conferences

Bring a typed draft in a folder on Monday. I will read it before your conference. Do not forget your conference. Attendance at your conference is equal to one week's worth of attendance.

Peer Review

After our conference, revise your essay for peer review. Both drafts should be included in your folder when you submit your final copy.

General Grading Criteria

The "Shared Criteria for Evaluating Writing" found on pp. 607-609 of the *LB Brief*, mechanics excepted (although I may comment on them) apply again, but this time, they are examined according to how well your narrative manipulates the required elements mentioned above, and not on how well you follow a particular form.