

## Narrative Assignment English 1010

### Assignment

This paper focuses on the course's theme of storytelling by asking you to write a narrative (a story). The paper will also allow you to practice important writing skills such as organization, description, and supporting evidence. You will have some latitude to choose a specific topic, but to keep all students working on the same type of project, you will have a general topic: the role of storytelling in your life. *Your paper should tell the audience (me and others enrolled in the course) the story of a time you heard (or told) a story. The narrative should make an implicit argument of how or why storytelling is an important way for humans to teach, entertain, build bonds, warn, etc.*

### An Example

When I was in sixth grade, I had an accident that resulted in a short hospitalization, and another kid in my class also spent time in the hospital that year. When we both returned to school, we shared stories comparing our experiences (most of the stories revolved around the gory details that fascinated 12-year old boys). It was the beginning of a friendship with one of my closest friends. In my narrative, I would tell the story of this conversation using dialogue, descriptive details (such as non-verbal gestures and setting), and logical organization to show a friendship being forged through storytelling. The paper would look something like a short story even though it is based on an actual experience.

### Formal Requirements

- A logical, well-organized paper
- 3-4 pages long (double-spaced, Times-New Roman, 12 pt.)
- MLA format

### Hints

- One main way to make your narrative succeed is to show rather than tell. Describe how someone in the scene would move, see, hear, smell, taste, or touch to show the reader what is happening.
- Use dialogue to help characterize the people in your narrative and to show interaction.
- Begin and end with action.
- Organize the paper logically, which usually means chronologically.
- Don't worry about writing an overt thesis in the opening paragraph. However, the narrative should show a specific way that humans interact with stories and highlight that implicit thesis at the end.
- Focus on one or two scenes rather than trying to cover many scenes. Depth over breadth will help.

### Schedule

Thur, Feb 24	Proposal
Thur, Mar 3	1 <sup>st</sup> submission (bring 3 copies)
Tue, Mar 15	Workshops
Tue, Apr 26	2 <sup>nd</sup> submission in the final portfolio