

NARRATIVE WRITING

When writing a narrative essay, one might think of it as telling a story. These essays are often anecdotal, experiential, and personal—allowing the student to express herself in a creative and, quite often, moving way.

guidelines for writing a descriptive essay:

- *If written as a story, the essay should include all the parts of a story.*
- *The essay should have a purpose.*
- *The essay should be written from a clear point of view.*
- *Use clear and concise language throughout the essay.*
- *The use of the first person pronoun 'I' is welcomed.*
- *As always, be organized!*

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/685/04/>

DUI

One Saturday last June, just two days after my high school graduation, a night of celebration turned into a costly and embarrassing lesson on the dangers of drinking and driving. Out with a girlfriend for a wild night on the town, we made stops at such popular hangouts as Studebaker's, Baggy Drawers, and Night Lights, and at each of these spots I drank a margarita or two. (Yes, I had a fake ID.) I was giggly by 11:00, tipsy by midnight, and flat out soused by the time we shut the bars down at three. Of course, as I hollered farewells to my friends and poured myself into the car, I was dead certain that I was sober enough to drive home safely. With one eye shut to keep the road from blurring, I weaved down Monroe Avenue. One minute there was not a soul on the road in front of me, and the next--crash! I had plowed into the back of a big green Buick.

When the police arrived--instantly, it seemed--they gave me a breath test even before asking to see my license. Naturally I registered drunk. After filling out pages of forms and checking to see that nobody was injured, the police took me to jail, where I was photographed, fingerprinted, and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol (DUI). I had to pay a \$2,000 fine and attend driving school for three months.

It was there, viewing gory films of accident victims with their bodies crunched under tires and heads wrapped inside bumpers, that I made a promise not to drink and drive ever again.

Revision and Editing Checklist for a Narrative Essay

1. In your introduction, have you clearly identified the experience you are about to relate?
2. In the opening sentences of your essay, have you provided the kinds of details that will evoke your readers' interest in the topic?
3. Have you clearly explained *who* was involved and *when* and *where* the incident occurred?
4. Have you organized the sequence of events in chronological order?
5. Have you focused your essay by eliminating unnecessary or repetitious information?
6. Have you used precise [descriptive](#) details to make your narrative interesting and convincing?
7. Have you used [dialogue](#) to report important conversations?
8. Have you used clear [transitions](#) (in particular, time signals) to tie your points together and guide your readers from one point to the next?
9. In your conclusion, have you clearly explained the particular significance of the experience you have related in the essay?
10. Are the sentences throughout your essay clear and direct as well as varied in length and structure? Could any sentences be improved by combining or restructuring them?
11. Are the words in your essay consistently clear and precise? Does the essay maintain a consistent [tone](#)?
12. Have you read the essay aloud, proofreading carefully?

TOPIC FOR THE SECOND CLASS WRITING

Narrate an experience that made you laugh until you cried

(approx. 250 words)

Deadline: 28th March 2012