Narrative Essay examples

1. Learning something new can be a scary experience.

Learning something new can be a scary experience. One of the hardest things I've ever had to do was learn how to swim. I was always afraid of the water, but I decided that swimming was an important skill that I should learn. I also thought it would be good exercise and help me to become physically stronger. What I didn't realize was that learning to swim would also make me a more confident person.

New situations always make me a bit nervous, and my first swimming lesson was no exception. After I changed into my bathing suit in the locker room, I stood timidly by the side of the pool waiting for the teacher and other students to show up. After a couple of minutes the teacher came over. She smiled and introduced herself, and two more students joined us. Although they were both older than me, they didn't seem to be embarrassed about not knowing how to swim. I began to feel more at ease.

We got into the pool, and the teacher had us put on brightly colored water wings to help us stay afloat. One of the other students, May, had already taken the beginning class once before, so she took a kickboard and went splashing off by herself. The other student, Jerry, and I were told to hold on to the side of the pool and shown how to kick for the breaststroke. One by one, the teacher had us hold on to a kickboard while she pulled it through the water and we kicked. Pretty soon Jerry was off doing this by himself, traveling at a fast clip across the short end of the pool.

Things were not quite that easy for me, but the teacher was very patient. After a few more weeks, when I seemed to have caught on with my legs, she taught me the arm strokes. Now I had two things to concentrate on, my arms and my legs. I felt hopelessly uncoordinated. Sooner than I imagined, however, things began to feel "right" and I was able to swim! It was a wonderful free feeling - like flying, maybe - to be able to shoot across the water.

Learning to swim was not easy for me, but in the end my persistence paid off. Not only did I learn how to swim and to conquer my fear of the water, but I also learned something about learning. Now when I am faced with a new situation I am not so nervous. I may feel uncomfortable to begin with, but I know that as I practice being in that situation and as my skills get better, I will feel more and more comfortable. It is a wonderful, free feeling when you achieve a goal you have set for yourself.

1. **This sample essay begins with a general statement, "Learning something new can be a scary experience." This statement introduces the subject of the essay, which is a particular learning experience that the author had. The use of "I" in the essay indicates that what is being described is a personal experience.**
2. **The essay is essentially a story about something that happened. The author gives sufficient details about the people, place, and events so that the reader gets a clear idea of how the author feels about them. In the essay, the author "stood timidly" and the teacher "smiled" and was "patient." These words indicate the author's fears and the sense of security provided by the teacher who helped the author get over her fear.**
3. **In the final paragraph of the essay, the author reflects on the larger meaning or importance of the experience described. The author concludes that learning to swim has helped her to feel more confident about herself in other new situations. The idea that self-confidence comes from conquering your fears is something that all people can relate to. This is the point of the story.**
4. **The essay is well-organized. After the introduction, the author describes the experience as it happened in time -- going to the pool the first day, having the first lesson, and the result of the subsequent lessons. The author might have chosen, however, to talk about the things she learned in order of their importance or difficulty.**
5. **The writing in an essay should be lively and interesting. Try to engage the reader's interest by adding details or personal observations. Sharing personal thoughts and details invites the reader into author's world and makes the story more personal and more interesting.**

**2. Attitude Is Everything**

Jerry was the kind of guy you love to hate. He was always in a good mood and always had something positive to say. When someone would ask him how he was doing, he would reply, "If I were any better, I would be twins!"

He was a unique manager because he had several waiters who had followed him around from restaurant to restaurant. The reason the waiters followed Jerry was because of his attitude. He was a natural motivator. If an employee was having a bad day, Jerry was there telling the employee how to look on the positive side of the situation.

Seeing this style really made me curious, so one day I went up to Jerry and asked him, "I don't get it! You can't be a positive person all of the time. How do you do it?" Jerry replied, "Each morning I wake up and say to myself, 'Jerry, you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood or you can choose to be in a bad mood.' I choose to be in a good mood. Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or I can choose to learn from it. I choose to learn from it. Every time someone comes to me complaining, I can choose to accept their complaining or I can point out the positive side of life. I choose the positive side of life."

"Yeah, right, it's not that easy," I protested. "Yes it is," Jerry said. "Life is all about choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to situations. You choose how people will affect your mood. You choose to be in a good or bad mood. The bottom line: It's your choice how you live life." I reflected on what Jerry said.

Soon thereafter, I left the restaurant industry to start my own business. We lost touch, but I often thought about him when I made a choice about life instead of reacting to it. Several years later, I heard that Jerry did something you are never supposed to do in the restaurant business: he left the back door open one morning and was held up at gunpoint by three armed robbers. While trying to open the safe, his hand shaking from nervousness, slipped off the combinations. The robbers panicked and shot him.

Luckily, Jerry was found relatively quickly and rushed to the local trauma center. After 18 hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, Jerry was released from the hospital with fragments of the bullets still in his body. I saw Jerry about six months after the accident. When I asked him how he was, he replied, "If I were any better, I'd be twins. Wanna see my scars?" I declined to see his wounds, but did ask him what had gone through his mind as the robbery took place.

"The first thing that went through my mind was that I should have locked the back door," Jerry replied. "Then, as I lay on the floor, I remembered I had two choices: I could choose to live, or I could choose to die. I chose to live."

"Weren't you scared? Did you lose consciousness?" I asked.

Jerry continued, "The paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the emergency room and I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes, I read, 'He's a dead man.' I knew I needed to take action."

"What did you do?" I asked.

"Well, there was a big, burly nurse shouting questions at me," said Jerry. "She asked if I was allergic to anything. 'Yes,' I said. The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a deep breath and yelled, 'Bullets!' Over their laughter, I told them, "I am choosing to live. Operate on me as if I am alive, not dead."

Jerry lived thanks to the skill of his doctors, but also because of his amazing attitude. I learned from him that every day we have the choice to live fully. Attitude, after all, is everything.

While neither of these example essays are perfect, they give you a general idea of what a narrative essay is all about.

Notes about narrative essays

1. Remember you are not writing a story; you are using elements of a story to make a point.
2. Your essay must have a thesis. (ie. What you are trying to prove with your essay)
3. Your essay should use only the relevant points of the story. Avoid unnecessary details.
4. Your essay should be engaging and interesting to the reader. Be descriptive and specific.
5. Your essay should follow a logical order in terms of making your point.
6. Your brainstorming should determine the point you are trying to make and the story or stories you are using to make that point. It should list details that would be important if you were writing a story so you can determine which elements to include and which ones not to include.
7. Your organizing and outline should determine the details of the story you are going to use and the order you are going to use them in. You should have reasons for choosing certain details over others.

## 1. Writing a Narrative Essay. Getting Started

*Definition:* **Narrative essay** is a story about your experience – imaginary, or real. It can also tell a story of somebody’s life.

*General guidelines:*

- think of a story you want to write about;  
- choose the most interesting fact/idea for thesis;  
- make notes of the parts that are to be the brightest;  
- make an outline.

*Our tips on writing custom narrative essays:*

* Great idea is to talk to somebody about the story you are to describe. Your interlocutor can have an absolutely different point of view or memory about the fact. His/her perspective can add some interesting details to your essay.

**2. Writing a Narrative Essay. Introduction**

*Definition:*

Introduction is an important part of your essay paper as it grabs the reader’s attention.

*General guidelines:*

- Start with an introductory phrase. It has to be short and catchy. An unexpected point of view is always interesting to get acquainted with.  
- State the thesis.  
- Write supporting sentences. Give reasons why the story you are sharing is significant.

*Our tips on writing a narrative essay:*

* Professional writers love the saying: “Don’t tell. Show.” It’s not interesting to read about the garage sale. But it is fascinating to see, feel and experience one. Don’t be greedy on details.
* Remember that the reader was not there when the story happened. He is trying to catch up with it while reading. Be polite and thoughtful and don’t get into useless details or get swept away by a story, leaving your reader wondering and wandering.

**3. Writing a Narrative Essay. Main Body**

*Definition:*

Your entire story is concentrated in these paragraphs – from three to as many as you wish.

*General guidelines:*

- A rule familiar to a lot of essay writers is to give one idea per paragraph.  
- A story has to follow some logical pattern. Chronological is the easiest one.  
- With every new paragraph underline the significance of experience and the universal truth the story brings to the audience.

*Our tips on writing a narrative essay:*

* Amazing how many people think about the idea, but prefer to avoid thinking about its shape. Your personal writing style is important. It can be philosophical (careful – requires some knowledge), ironical, critical, romantic…. Whatever you choose, it has to be you from top to bottom. Writing style is like an autograph. Work on it.

**4. Writing a Narrative Essay. Conclusion**

*Definition:*

Conclusion is as important as introduction, for it leaves the aftertaste.

*General guidelines:*

- You can summarize.  
- If you don’t like summarizing, or it doesn’t fit the style of the story, wrap up with a rhetorical question or plans for future.

*Our tips on writing a narrative essays:*

* Give your readers an idea. Think about the main message of the story and remind it. One of the purposes of a **custom narrative essay** is analytical thinking. Leave your readers with a feeling that they need to sit back and think about the problems you bring up. Leave them a good aftertaste.

Introduction paragraph

Opening statement examples for each paragraph- you can make them more interesting in your good copy

1. There are many experiences in our lives that help us grow.
2. When we make mistakes in life, those experiences help us learn.
3. In life often bad things happen to us but often those experiences help us appreciate the good things we have.
4. There are many things that happen to us in our experiences in life that teach us life lessons.
5. We often are faced with challenges in but going through those experiences makes us stronger.
6. It is the memories of our experience in life that make life worth living.

After your opening statement you need to explain the three things you are going to talk about in your paragraphs. Use the following as a fill in the blank.

Introduction paragraph fill in the blank

Opening statement (thesis statement)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Many experiences in my life have led me to this conclusion. First of all, (summarize experience 1st paragraph)

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Secondly I have learned (summarize experience in 2nd paragraph) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Lastly, my experiences have shown me (summarize experience in 3rd paragraph) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Overall, these event in my life have shown me (restate thesis) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Your conclusion paragraph follows the same format. Instead of an opening statement you need a conclusion statement. Just use different wording and end with a statement that sums up what your essay has proven.