**Outline for Personal Narrative Essay**

1. Introduction
   1. Grabs the reader’s attention.
   2. Summarizes your story, two to three sentences.
   3. Gives needed/necessary background information.
   4. If you are stuck, use the 5Ws + H.
      1. Who?
      2. What?
      3. Where?
      4. Why?
      5. When?
      6. How?
   5. If this narrative was a movie, what would be the opening scene?
   6. Thesis: purpose of your essay
      1. Don’t state the obvious. For example: This essay is about a story that affected me. No one wants to read this essay.
      2. Your thesis sums up your whole essay in one sentence; therefore, your thesis is going to take some time to develop.
      3. Remember, your thesis can be changed. Nothing is written in stone.
2. Body paragraphs
   1. Topic sentence for each body paragraph: gives the reader an idea of the overall main purpose of the paragraph
   2. Organize your paragraphs the way you want to present your story: beginning, middle, and end.
   3. Include details about the setting, people, and what is happening at each main point of your story.
   4. Make sure that these details are pertinent to proving your thesis.
   5. (Suggestion) Follow the parts of a plot line: inciting incident, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution
   6. Your story should have a conflict that propels the action and a turning point or significant moment in the story that clearly proves why you have chosen this story to share.
   7. Provide details about what happens after the conflict/turning point/significant moment. This part can be a part of your conclusion sentence, your last body paragraph, or your conclusion paragraph.
   8. Conclusion sentence for each body paragraph: wraps us your paragraph and transitions into the next paragraph
3. Conclusion paragraph
4. Restate/rewrite your thesis and main points.
5. Reflect on what you have learned.
6. Call to action or final thoughts or make a future statement.