

## Writing A Personal Narrative

### What is a personal narrative essay?

A personal narrative essay is a story about yourself that you feel comfortable sharing with readers about your own experiences. Normally, in a personal narrative essay we want to tell our readers a story to make a larger argument. We can even develop an argument by focusing the readers' attention on significant, detailed scenes through our storytelling. Remember, since it is about you the use of the first person pronoun 'I' is totally ok here!

### Components of a story:

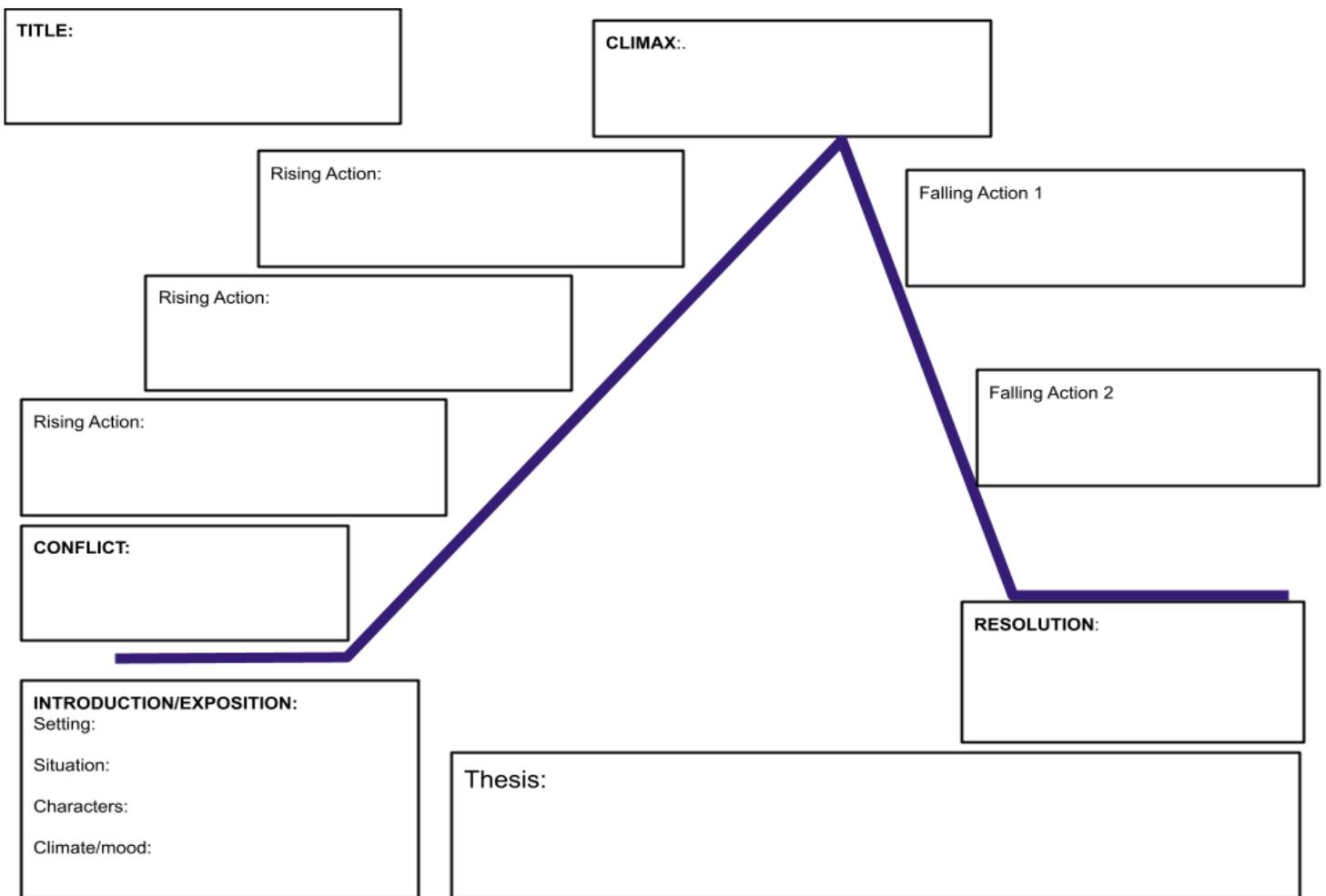
- Introduction: Also known as exposition and includes background information within the story such as the setting, characters, prior plot events, historical context, etc.
- Thesis: A thesis in a narrative often responds directly to or reflects on the main source of conflict in your story
- Plot: The events that happen in the story. In a plot you usually have an introduction, rising action, a climax, the falling action, and a resolution.
- Characters: There can be one main character or many, and depending on the story there can be secondary characters. Characters can be a person or animal, etc.
- Setting: Setting represents both the physical location and also the time
- Conflict/Resolution: This can be a challenge or problem around which the plot is based. Without conflict, the story will seem to have no purpose. The story also needs some sort of ending or solving of the conflict.

### Brainstorming questions:

- Conflict
  - Is your conflict internal? Or External?
  - Who or what challenged preconceived notions you have had?
  - What lesson did you learn from the resolution of your conflict that your readers can identify with?
  - How has your perspective changed in a way that relates to your specific audience?
- Setting
  - What is the event you want to share? Where did it happen? When did this event occur?
  - Are the details of time and place useful to develop the context for your readers to understand the meaning of the story?
- Plot
  - What important events led to this story?
  - What action happened immediately before and after the event?
  - What changed as a result of the event?
  - How has this event impacted you directly or indirectly?
  - At what point in your story did your understanding of your conflict change?

- Characters
  - Who was involved in this event? Are these individuals significant to your narrative? How are they significant to your story?
  - What is the relationship between you and these other individuals?
- Conclusion/Resolution
  - What meaning is revealed in the moment of truth—or the moment of revelation or recognition?
  - How was the conflict resolved, or to what extent?
  - How can you illustrate relief from or resolution of the tension caused by the conflict?

### Visual Diagram/Outline



Resources:

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general\\_writing/academic\\_writing/essay\\_writing/narrative\\_essays.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/academic_writing/essay_writing/narrative_essays.html)

<https://www.dreamerswriting.com/elements-of-a-story/>