

Nifty Narrative

Skills / Standards

- Selects a topic for narrative writing
- Creates an organized structure for the narrative
- Uses sensory details to enhance story

Purpose

This organizer assists students with writing a personal narrative about a special memory or event in their lives. The organizer is designed to help students add rich detail to their narratives to make stories come alive for the reader.

How to Use the Organizer

Read Sandra Cisneros's short story "Eleven" or another narrative that completely engages the reader in the writer's personal experience. Discuss the techniques and the language the author uses to make the event compelling and memorable.

As a class, brainstorm topics for students' personal narratives. If possible, have students collect objects or photos or create a personal time line to help them recall an important experience or event in their lives. Distribute copies of the Nifty Narrative graphic organizer (page 33). Ask students to select their topic and write it on the organizer.

Emphasize the need to include strong sensory language and emotions in the narrative to avoid "bare bones" writing that makes the reader fall asleep. Have students write the feelings and emotions surrounding the memory inside the oval with the faces near it. Ask them to visualize what they saw, heard, smelled, tasted, and touched during their experience and to list these sensory images inside the oval near the eye, nose, and mouth.

Model a completed organizer for students and show them how to use it to draft a narrative. The transition from the organizer to the draft will be most effective if you compose your own narrative and show how the organizer relates to what you have written. Have students use the organizer to write the drafts of their stories.

More to Do

Individually or in small groups have students use the organizer to analyze an author's personal narrative. Or ask students to become a character in a story and create a personal narrative from that character's point of view.

Name Josh Date January 19

Nifty Narratives

Use this organizer to plan your personal narrative. What was the main event?
How did you feel as they happened? What sensory details can you add?

Topic First day of 1st grade

Event 1: Got on bus and fell grand

Event 2: Got lost and forgot where my teacher was

Event 3: Miss Messner had an accident what was scary

Event 4: I hid for the whole day and the teacher got so angry!

How did I feel? (Emotions): Scared, terrified, excited, nervous

What I saw, heard, smelled, tasted, or touched: Red dress, knew that my teacher had a cough of (coughy 1st grade)

Nifty Narrative

Use this organizer to plan your personal narrative. What are the main events?
How did you feel as they happened? What sensory details can you add?

Topic _____

