

# Narratives

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## Topic Ideas

- › Any “first”: first time learning something, going somewhere, meeting somebody, or encountering a situation
- › Difficult situations: any time that you had to make a tough choice, when you let someone down, or when someone let you down
- › Challenging incidents: an event that challenged your values and beliefs
- › Humorous event: any humorous or embarrassing moment that changed you or the way you think
- › Incident charged with strong emotion: any event filled with strong feelings like love, fear, passion, hate, guilt, frustration, or pride

## What Not to Write About

- › Clichés: when you learned not to lie, steal, cheat, etc.
- › Overdone ideas: the big game, prom, coming to college, etc...try to make your topic unique so that the reader gets a sense of who you are as opposed to you just sounding like everyone else

## Working with a Topic

- › Focus your topic on a small event rather than a large span of time
  - ›› Large: my senior trip to Cancun
  - ›› Small: my first time wakeboarding
- › Try writing your topic using different sequences
  - ›› Chronological: the order events happened
  - ›› Flashback: start with the ending in present tense and flashback to what led up to it in the past tense
  - ›› Daydream/memory: go back and forth from the present to recalling something from the past
- › Find a significance in your story
  - ›› DO NOT use clichés
  - ›› DO NOT write “the significance of this story is...” or “the moral of the story is...”
  - ›› DO try to refer to the significance throughout the entire narrative and not just in the conclusion