

6th Grade Narrative Essay: Prewriting

In this unit, you've been reading fiction and nonfiction narratives—imagined and true stories—about characters and real people who had to choose whether to stand up for themselves, another person, or their community. What motivated them to speak and act as they did? When and why do people decide it's time to take action? Write a fictional narrative about someone who takes a stand to help another person or to make a bad situation better. Think about why your character decides to take a stand. What does your character hope to change? What does your character do? What is the outcome of your character's efforts?

Your narrative should include:

- a beginning in which you set the scene and introduce the narrator and the characters
- a challenge or problem faced by one or more of your characters
- descriptive details and precise language to bring the story's events, setting, and characters to life
- dialogue that fits your characters
- a well-organized sequence of events
- the resolution, by the story's end, of characters' problems or difficulties
- an underlying theme or message

Introduction to narrative writing:

A **narrative** is the telling or retelling of real or imagined experiences and events. Narratives can be fiction or nonfiction. Fictional narratives are made-up stories and can take the form of novels, short stories, poems, or plays. Nonfiction narratives are true stories, often expressed in memoirs or diary entries, personal essays or letters, autobiographies or biographies, eyewitness accounts or histories. Many narratives have a clearly identified narrator who tells the story as it unfolds. In nonfiction narratives, the author usually tells the story. In fictional narratives, the narrator can be a character in the story or someone outside the story. Effective fictional narratives generally focus on a problem or conflict that needs to be resolved. The writer uses storytelling techniques such as dialogue, pacing, and description to develop events and characters. Events are generally presented in sequence, and transition words are used as needed to clarify time order. The features of narrative writing include:

- setting—the time and place in which your story happens
- characters or real individuals
- plot—the sequence of events in a story
- point of view—the narrator's perspective on people and events
- precise language and descriptive details
- theme—the message about life that a story communicates

As you actively participate in this Extended Writing Project, you will receive more instructions and practice to help you craft each of the elements of narrative writing.

YOUR TURN

It's time to brainstorm your essay. You can use a plot graph, timeline, or any type of organizational method to begin writing your own, original story. This story must have an antagonist, protagonist, exposition, conflicts/complications, climax, and a resolution.

Remember your character has to stand up for something or someone in your story. Who is taking a stand? Who are they standing against? What are the consequences? How has everyone else been impacted?

Who are your characters?

Who is telling the story?

In what situation do your characters find themselves?

What risks do your characters face if they stand up against society—and if they don't?

What choices do your characters make?

How will you organize your story's events?

How does your story end?