

The Writing of the Personal Narrative

(for those of us in grade 11)

Over the next three periods, you will conceive of an idea, brainstorm and plan a story based on that idea, and then write and workshop that story. The goal is for you to use this process to create an outstanding work that will allow me to weep tears of joy, and to not shed tears for you and your generation.

DAY 1 – CHOOSING AND PLANNING

The first step in your journey is to determine to which of the following prompts you will respond; these are prompts culled from our vast archives of past Grade 12 provincial exams. Your choices are...

- **A person’s view of the world may change over time**
- **Happiness can be found in unlikely circumstances**
- **Differing points of view make life interesting.**
- **Each generation has something valuable to offer.**

Now you must remember that your goal is to create a PERSONAL NARRATIVE, and not an expository essay, so choose a topic that allows you to write a story in response.

Once you have completed the choice, you need to outline your essay. You can use the sample outline sheet on the back of the previous handout, or you can create something of your own, but there must be an outline. There will be no seat-of-your-pants writing for this exercise. The outline will be given a “mark”.

DAY 2- LET’S GET WRITING

On the second day you will write. It is meant to be a first draft, so treat it as such. No pre-writing at home- show up and write. By hand. Double spaced. In ink. No exceptions.

DAY 3- WORKSHOPPING TO MAKE IT BETTER

One reason I have you write in class is so that you have something for day 3’s workshop. Everyone must participate. On the day I will walk you through the process of peer-editing, so that we can get the most out of it.

From here you will type up your story based on criteria I will give you, and submit the final draft. And I will assess, based (loosely) on the rubric on the reverse.

