Personal or Fictional Narrative Checklist

Organization:

___ 1-Hook (Grab your reader’s attention.)

___ 2-Exposition (Beginning)
   ___ a) Establish the point of view.
   ___ b) Describe the setting (the time and place).
   ___ c) Introduce the characters (Who are they? What do they look like? What are they doing and saying?).
   ___ c) Describe the initial situation.
   ___ d) Introduce the problem/ordeal.

___ 3-Rising Action (Middle)
   ___ a) Show events in chronological order.
   ___ b) Develop the characters (name, appearance, background, action, dialogue, thoughts and feelings, effect on others).
   ___ c) Build the excitement (use foreshadowing, suspense, etc).

___ 4- Climax (End of Middle)
   ___ a) Show the turning point of your story (often the most exciting scene) by “expanding” the moment (adding sensory details, action, and dialogue).

___ 5- Falling Action
   ___ a) Show the important events that follow the climax.
   ___ b) Be concise and brief; tie any loose ends.

___ 6- Resolution or Denouement (The End)
   ___ a) Show that the problem/ordeal has been resolved and that your main character has changed or learned something.

___ 7- Add a reflection and/or a powerful closing sentence.
Narrative Writing Skills Checklist:

___ Vary the length and structure of sentences.

___ Write well-developed, indented paragraphs that flow (use appropriate transitions).

(Start a new paragraph (indent) when:

1- you move to a different moment in time,

2- you move to a different place or scene,

3- you switch speakers (when writing dialogue),

4- you switch the topic (you're writing about one thing, and then you start writing about another), or

5- you want to create a dramatic effect.)

___ Choose powerful words (precise nouns, vivid verbs, artful adjectives and smart adverbs), and keep your writing tight.

___ Incorporate imagery, figurative language, and other writing techniques.

___ Use dialogue sparsely and effectively.

___ Show, don’t tell, what the characters are thinking and feeling (through action, dialogue, and vivid descriptions).

___ “Expand” the climax with sensory details, action, and dialogue.

___ Have a clear purpose and message, and stay focused.