

## 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.