

Week 2 Assignment Worksheet: Narrative Essay – Prewriting

Assignment Template:

Step 1:

Per the assignment guidelines, choose your topic, such as an event that stands out as a learning experience. Then, write a working thesis statement in a complete sentence.

- a) The topic I chose is overcoming my fear of public speaking during my first debate competition.
- b) My working thesis is Participating in my first debate competition, which taught me the importance of preparation and self-confidence, transforming my fear into a passion for public speaking.
- c) Describe the main point or moral of your narrative:

The main moral of my narrative is that facing our fears with preparation and determination can lead to personal growth and new passions. This experience taught me that stepping out of my comfort zone was crucial in overcoming my fear and developing new skills.

- d) List 3 sub-points that you will use to illustrate your moral clearly:
 - 1. Preparation for the competition: How researching and practicing my debate points helped reduce my anxiety and build confidence.
 - 2. Experiencing the challenge: The feelings and thoughts I had during the actual debate, highlighting the struggle and how I coped in the moment.
 - 3. Reflecting on the outcome: The sense of accomplishment and newfound interest in public speaking after completing the debate.

Step 2:

Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

- a) Why did you choose this topic?

I chose this topic because it marks a significant turning point where I transformed a deep fear into a strength. It was a pivotal moment that improved my communication skills, boosted my self-esteem, and influenced my academic and career choices after that.

- b) How do you connect to the topic you chose?

I connect to this topic deeply as it reflects my journey of growth and resilience. Being a shy individual, the challenge of public speaking and succeeding in it was a monumental achievement, reshaping how I viewed myself and my capabilities.

c) What do you want to learn about the topic you chose?

I want to learn more about the psychological aspects of overcoming fears, particularly public speaking. Additionally, I am interested in exploring various strategies individuals use to conquer similar worries and how these can be applied in different areas of life.

d) What do you hope your audience takes away from your paper?

I hope my audience takes away the message that overcoming fears, especially those that hinder personal and professional growth, is achievable with preparation and perseverance. I want them to be inspired by my story to face their fears and see them as opportunities for growth rather than obstacles.

Step 3:

Complete a prewrite exercise. Identify the type of prewrite exercise you chose to complete for step 3.

Select **one** of the following:

- Freewriting
- Mapping/Clustering
- Brainstorming/Listing
- Questioning

Prewrite Exercise type:

Mapping/Clustering.

Using this identified exercise, complete the prewrite for your selected topic in the space below.

Central Node: Overcoming Fear of Public Speaking

Preparation

- Detailed research on the debate topics.
- Multiple practice sessions, both solo and with peers.
- Watching professional debates for tactical insights.
- Learning and practicing breathing techniques to manage anxiety.

Experience at the Debate

- Initial emotions: nervousness and self-doubt.
- Support and encouragement from peers and mentors.
- The moment of stepping onto the stage.
- The progression from a shaky start to gaining confidence.

Reflection and Impact

- Emotional relief and a sense of accomplishment post-debate.
- Positive and constructive feedback from judges and peers.
- Insights into personal capabilities and overcoming fears.
- sparked a new interest and confidence in public speaking.

Lessons Learned

- The crucial role of preparation and its impact on performance.
- The power of self-belief and resilience in challenging situations.
- Understanding that confronting fears can lead to personal growth and new opportunities.