

## THE ESSENTIALS OF NARRATIVE AND RECOUNT

### Principles of Writing Narrative Essays

After choosing their topic, the students need to keep three principles in mind.

??They should remember to involve readers in the story. It is much more interesting to actually recreate an incident for readers than to simply tell about it.

??Find a moral/lesson/theme that the story supports. This is the only way the writer's personal experience will take on meaning for readers. This moral/lesson/theme does not have to encompass humanity as a whole; it can concern the writer, men, women, or children of various ages and backgrounds.

??Remember that although the main component of a narrative is the story, details must be carefully selected to support, explain, and enhance the story.

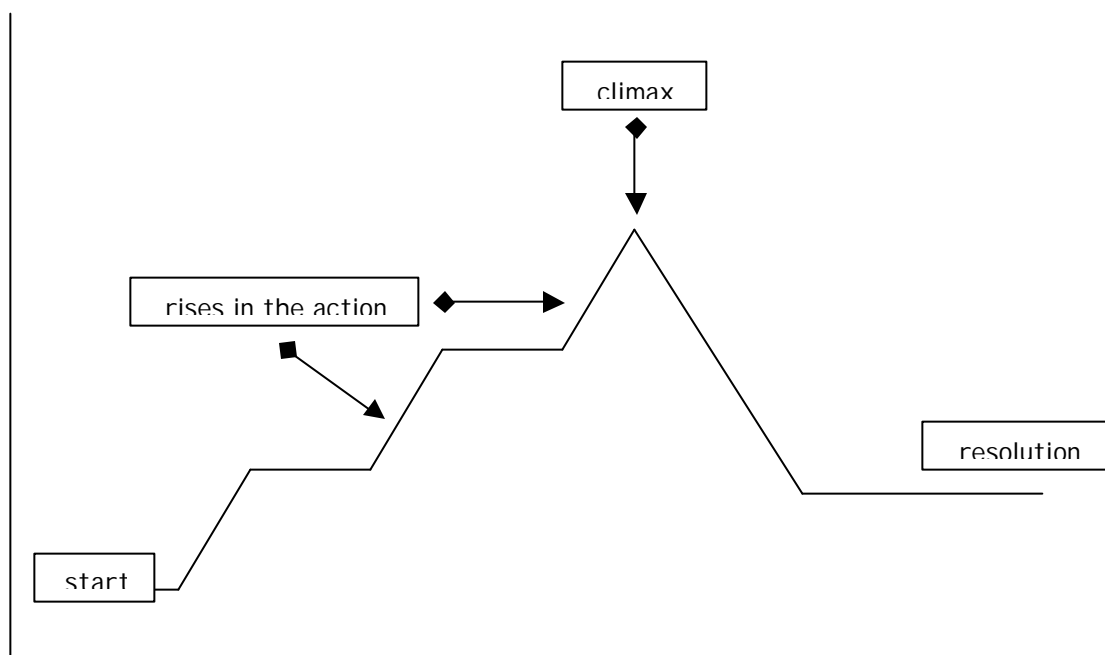
### Conventions of Narrative Essays

In writing their narrative, students should keep the following conventions in mind.

?? Narratives are generally written in the first person, that is, using "I." However, third person ("he," "she," or "it") can also be used.

??Narratives rely on concrete, sensory details through imagery to convey their point. These details should create a unified, forceful effect, a dominant impression.

??Narratives, as stories, should include these story conventions: a plot, including setting and characters; a climax; and an ending.



## The Principles of Recount Writing

After choosing their topic students should keep the following principles in mind.

- ?? Recounts normally start by setting the scene e.g. what, when, where, how.
- ?? This is followed by a series of paragraphs each one centred on an important event. These events should be told in chronological order.
- ?? The final paragraph should bring the reader back to the topic/subject of the recount.
- ?? Recounts are often written in an active voice using past tense.
- ?? The writing should always focus on specific events or people and not wander off with irrelevant details.
- ?? The events are real and can be personal or shared.
- ?? The narration should be in first person but it can be in third person if necessary.
- ?? They can be formal or informal accounts of the events.

### CHOOSING A TOPIC

Very difficult for some students to decide on their writing topic and the internet has plenty of suggestions but regardless of where the topic comes from, I like to use David Langford's 'Five Whys' approach to discussing the reasons why this topic was chosen.

It has been my experience of asking the student 'why', 'why', 'why', 'why', 'why' helps minimise the changes of regurgitation either of their own past writing or someone else's.

If students have come through the 'Five Whys' then ask them to map out their writing using a concept map like the one supplied in the handout.

The more the students plan, the more you are able to follow the development of their text and the less chance they will submit a copy of someone else's writing and try to pass it off as their own and you won't get into that grey area of accusation.