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88 UNIT 3 Developing the Paragraph

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- Have you ever been stereotyped? That is, has anyone ever treated you a certain way based only on your age, clothing, race, gender, major, accent, piercings or other decoration, or even things you are carrying, like books or a beeper? Share a story with the group. What stereotype was imposed on you, and how did you react? Now narrate vividly in writing your experience of stereotyping. You might wish to place your topic sentence, stating the meaning or point, last. Refer to the checklist, and ask your group mates for feedback.



EXPLORING ONLINE

<http://www.tolerance.org/>

Explore this interesting site about increasing tolerance. Take notes on any ideas for further writing.

Checklist

The Process of Writing a Narrative Paragraph

Refer to this checklist of steps as you write a narrative paragraph of your own.

- ☐ 1. Narrow the topic in light of your audience and purpose.
- ☐ 2. Compose a topic sentence that tells the point of the story.
- ☐ 3. Freewrite or brainstorm for all of the events and details that might be part of the story. (You may want to freewrite or brainstorm before you narrow the topic.)
- ☐ 4. Select the important events and details; drop any that do not clearly relate to the point in your topic sentence.
- ☐ 5. Make a plan or an outline for the paragraph, numbering the events in the correct time (chronological) sequence.
- ☐ 6. Write a draft of your narrative paragraph, using transitional expressions to indicate time sequence.
- ☐ 7. Revise as necessary, checking for support, unity, logic, and coherence.
- ☐ 8. Proofread for errors in grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, spelling, and mechanics.



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Suggested Topics for Narrative Paragraphs

1. Your best (or worst) job interview
2. A risk that paid off
3. An important family story or a story someone told you
4. A turning point (personal, academic, or professional)
5. An episode in a courtroom, ER, or other interesting place
6. How you developed a career skill (in customer service, computers, attitude, and so on)



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7. A breakthrough (emotional, physical, or spiritual)
8. An experience in a new country (city, school, or job)
9. An incident that provoked an intense emotion (such as rage, grief, pride, or joy)
10. A triumphant (or embarrassing) moment
11. The first time you encountered a role model or important friend
12. A serious choice or decision
13. An encounter with prejudice
14. Interview a person you admire and tell, in short form, his or her story
15. Writer's choice: _____



EXPLORING ONLINE

<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/composition/narrative.htm>

Review the elements of a good narrative, and read some fine examples.

www.healingstory.org

Do you think that stories can heal? Explore this website and decide for yourself. Click "Treasure Chest."

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