

***Strategies for Writing Effective Personal Narratives***

* **Generate ideas by thinking about special people and places my in life and memorable experiences.**
* **Choose an experience to write about, close my eyes and make a movie in my mind, and focus on what made it memorable.**
* **Choose descriptive details that will help to paint a picture in the mind of the reader.**
* **Generate more ideas by thinking about times when I felt a strong emotion or times when I learned a lesson in life.**
* **Use concrete words and phrases to convey experiences and events precisely.**
* **Include sensory details to help the reader experience the story.**
* **Plan, organize, and pace my story using a story mountain.**
* **Expand the turning point of the story using concrete words and phrases and sensory details.**
* **Use transitional words, phrases, and clauses (where and when) to manage the sequence of events.**
* **Slant my story by telling the internal story – my thoughts, feelings, and responses to what is happening.**
* **Include a flashback by stepping back in time and recalling past events or thoughts.**
* **Include a flash forward by stepping forward in time and considering future possibilities.**
* **Elaborate by adding actions, descriptions, dialogue, and thoughts.**
* **Create strong leads – action, setting, character, dialogue, and thoughts – by studying the work of published authors.**
* **Create effective conclusions – resolve a problem, change feelings, learn a lesson, reach a goal – by studying the work of published authors.**
* **Eliminate extraneous details** **by crossing off unnecessary words and phrases.**
* **Reread my story with a singular focus on each item on the checklist and make revisions and corrections by adding, changing, or deleting.**