

Narrative Essays: To Tell a Story

In a **narrative essay you tell a story**, but you also make a point. So, it is like **a story told for a reason**. An example of a narrative essay is the story about the boy who cried wolf.

Essential Elements of Narrative Essays

The focus of a narrative essay is the plot, which is told using enough details to build to a climax. Here's how:

- It is usually told chronologically.
- It usually has a purpose, which is usually stated in the opening sentence.
- It may use dialogue.
- It is written with **sensory details and vivid descriptions** to involve the reader.

All these details relate in some way to the main point the writer is making.

All of these elements need to seamlessly combine.

Tips on Writing a Narrative Essay

When writing a narrative essay, remember that you are sharing sensory and emotional details with the reader.

- Your words need to be vivid and colorful to help the reader feel the same feelings that you felt.
- Elements of the story need to support the point you are making and you need to remember to make reference to that point in the first sentence.
- You should make use of conflict and sequence like in any story.
- You may use flashbacks and flash forwards to help the story build to a climax.
- It is usually written in the first person, but third person may also be used.

Remember, a well-written narrative essay tells a story and makes a point.

