



## For the Homeschool Educator

Learning to write a **personal narrative** helps children develop their writing and communication skills. It can help them to better understand themselves and their experiences. Additionally, this type of writing can improve their ability to organize their thoughts, sequence events, and develop their vocabulary. In this lesson, your child will use the writing process to create a polished **personal narrative**.

## Signs of Readiness

This lesson has been designed for children ages 6-8 who have demonstrated basic writing skills such as composing a sentence and a simple paragraph. The child should be ready to persist with a more complex writing task with multiple steps.

## Common Misconceptions

Children might confuse **personal narrative** with biography or descriptions. Clarify that the writing will tell what happened during one event from their life.

## Key Vocabulary

Use these definitions to explain key terms that are used in the activities below.

Word or Phrase	Definition
personal narrative	“a story about something that happened to you personally”
draft	“a first version or early version of writing that needs more work”
revise	“to change parts of something to make it better”
edit	“to find and correct any mistakes in a piece of writing”

## Lesson Options:

**Use the lesson elements below to create a single-day or multiday lesson.**

**Digital Playlist:** Generally, your child will complete the Digital Playlist first, then follow up with some or all of the activities described below. As you select and do these activities with your child, you may wish to reassign some or all of the digital activities for additional practice.

**Explore Activity:** This follow-up is designed to be used closely with the Digital Playlist to help your child understand the topic.

**Dig Deeper Activity:** This offline activity provides an additional learning experience with the same topic.

**Extend Activity:** This offline activity extends your child’s understanding and application of the same topic



## Explore Activity

### Steps

#### Plan

1. Let your child know that they will plan for three **personal narratives** (though they will only write one). They will use the Explore Activity, Dig Deeper Activity, and Extend Activity to work through the writing process.
2. Ask your child to think of a special memory. It might be a birthday, a performance, or a family outing.
3. Have them tell you what they remember about the event.
4. Use the questions from the Graphic Organizer to prompt your child to tell you about the event again and write a word or short phrase in each box.
5. Repeat steps 2-4 with two other memories.
6. Let your child know that the plans will help their **personal narrative** be organized and easy for their reader to understand.
7. Store the plans in a safe place until it's time for the Dig Deeper Activity.

### Materials

- Three copies of Graphic Organizer: Personal Narrative Resource Page (included at the end of this lesson)

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## Modifications

- **Beginning learners** may benefit from writing only one **personal narrative** plan. Thinking of three separate memories may be overwhelming.

## Dig Deeper Activity

### Steps

#### Draft

1. Have your child choose which of the plans they would like to turn into a **draft**.
2. Guide your child to read aloud the word or phrase they wrote in the “Setting” box of the organizer. Then, on a separate page, have them write one or two sentences that give good details about the setting.
3. Repeat with the remaining boxes of the Graphic Organizer.
4. Have your child read all of their sentences aloud.

### Materials

- Completed Graphic Organizers from the Explore Activity
- Writing materials (examples: a notebook and pencil or a tablet)



## Writing for Different Purposes

# Personal Narrative

5. Let them know this is their first **draft**, or first try. You will help them make **revisions**, or changes, to this **draft** to make it even better. That is what authors do to make sure their readers will understand and enjoy their writing.
6. Store the **draft** in a safe place until it's time for the Extend Activity.

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## Modifications

- **Beginning learners** who wrote complete sentences on the Graphic Organizer, will simply transfer and sequence their sentences to form their first **draft**.
- **More advanced learners** may benefit from orally creating several options for turning each phrase into a sentence before writing one down.

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## Extend Activity

### Steps

#### Revise and Publish

1. Rewatch *King Richard: Writing a Personal Narrative* and guide your child to pay particular attention to the description of the hook and the reasons for **revising**.
2. Let your child know that they will **revise** their **personal narrative**, just like King Richard. They will add a hook, **revise**, and **edit**.
3. Guide your child to think of a hook to add to their **draft**. Encourage them to use strong describing words to set up why the memory in the **personal narrative** is amazing.
4. Record your child as they read aloud their **draft** (with the new hook).
5. Play the recording back for them and have them think of the following **revision** questions as they listen.
  - a. Does this part make sense?
  - b. Would a stranger understand what I mean?
  - c. Is there enough detail for my reader to “see” the setting?
6. Discuss changes to the **draft** that would make them able to say “yes” to each of the questions above. Encourage your child to make at least one change or addition.
7. Have your child **edit** their **draft** by making sure each of the following is true:
  - a. The first word of each paragraph is indented.
  - b. Each sentence starts with a capital letter.
  - c. Each sentence ends with a punctuation mark.
  - d. All words that they should know how to spell are spelled correctly.

### Materials

- Completed **draft** from the Dig Deeper Activity
- Completed **draft** and recording from the Dig Deeper Activity
- Publishing materials (writing paper, drawing paper and construction paper, or digital word processing app or recording device)



## Writing for Different Purposes

# Personal Narrative

8. Finally, have your child publish their work. Replace the **draft**, which is now quite messy, with a neatly written final **draft**. Choose one of the following publishing options:

- Record your child reading the **draft** aloud.
- Have your child read the **draft** aloud to an audience.
- Have your child turn the **draft** into a story book.

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## Modifications

- More advanced learners may enjoy writing an additional **personal narrative** using one of the unused plans.



# Personal Narrative

## Graphic Organizer: Personal Narrative

To write a personal narrative, you will want to think of an interesting thing that happened to you. Choose an interesting moment from your life and use it to fill out this graphic organizer and plan your story.

What was the setting?	Who were the characters?
What happened in the beginning?	
What happened next?	What did you feel?
	What did people say?
What happened at the end?	