



Course Outline

Personal Narrative writing has been described as the most beloved type of writing, especially for early elementary students and teachers. The “once upon a time” type of teaching in the traditional sense has changed but the good news is that now it is more structured, meaningful, and experienced-based. This new type of writing allows students to gain a deeper understanding into the art form of how stories are crafted.

This course will help you break down and understand the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) to find meaning in the new method. We will scrutinize the specific expectations for students when writing in this genre and then utilize this knowledge to create our own personal narrative model. We will write, rewrite, analyze, revise, and edit. We will take storytelling to a whole new level and in turn, gain the skills and knowledge to have our students do the same.

To accomplish this, you will participate as the student as well as the teacher. After analyzing the provided information and actively engaging in the activities and discussions, you will then ask yourself, *What did I learn and how can I now apply this to my teaching?* This summary of learning and planning for teaching will occur throughout the course.

This course will enable you to actively engage in the writing process of creating a personal narrative. It will allow you to take your learning and experience and use it to teach your students in a meaningful way. You will be motivated to create powerful stories that are generated from nothing else except your own experiences and ability to draw on feelings and emotions within those moments. All of this will be done by having you go through the process as your students will do.

You will study mentor texts, reflect on your learning, and link important lessons together to make meaning out of the experience. All of your work (reflection questions, checks for understanding, your own personal narrative) will be housed in your Class Portfolio where you can see the progression of your learning.

Goals and Purpose

Session 1—The Purpose of Narrative Writing

- respond to narrative writing pieces written by various authors
- define what is and is *NOT* narrative writing
- draw conclusions for the **MUST HAVES** in personal narrative writing
- examine key shifts in this genre by comparing previous expectations with new narrative writing expectations
- identify Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in personal narrative writing
- synthesize information and link learning to teaching practice

Session 2—Personal Narrative and the Common Core State Standards

- understand and internalize CCSS-aligned narrative terminology
- understand what personal narrative writing looks like
- review CCSS-aligned student samples
- synthesize information and link learning to teaching practice
- self-assess through reflection

Session 3—Personal Narrative through the Eyes of Mentor Texts and Videos

- immerse yourself in texts that can be used to “kick off” your personal narrative unit of study
- read and interpret mentor texts and videos
- identify MAY HAVES in personal narratives by noticing author’s craft
- synthesize information and link learning to teaching practice
- self-assess through reflection

Session 4—Generating Ideas about Narrative Writing

- participate in various brainstorming activities to begin unit of study such as:
 - oral storytelling
 - creating Writer’s Hearts
 - evaluating artwork and primary documents
- synthesize information and link learning to teaching practice
- self-assess through reflection

Session 5—Transitioning into Seed Ideas

- review strategies for discovering seed ideas within bigger stories
- select a seed idea for your own personal narrative
- stretch out your seed idea into a small moment in order to complete a first draft of your personal narrative
- synthesize information and link learning to teaching practice
- self-assess through reflection

Session 6—Strengthening your Writing

- clarify the difference between revision and editing
- revise sections of your first draft that need strengthening to SOUND better
- edit for grammar, spelling, and punctuation
- synthesize information and link learning to teaching practice
- self-assess through reflection

Session 7—Evaluating Personal Narrative Writing

- confirm that your completed narrative is aligned with specific grade-level CCSS
- ensure that your voice was conveyed in your personal narrative
- publish and celebrate the completion of your written piece
- synthesize information and link learning to teaching practice
- self-assess through reflection

Session 8—Reflecting on Your Learning and Teaching of Personal Narrative

- review depths of knowledge levels covered in this course
- self-reflect by connecting your writing to your teaching and learning
- compare pre- and post-assessment data to determine growth in this course

Throughout the course, opportunities are provided for teachers to connect their learning across sessions and to explicitly consider the implications of that learning for classroom practice. Teachers will also be able to revisit their work and reflections by viewing their individual Course Portfolios.