



Narrative Paragraph Example



- Remember that a narrative paragraph tells a story that is meaningful and significant. A paragraph about a trip to the beach would be boring, but writing a paragraph about your first time at the beach and why it was so important to you would be better.
- Pick one topic for your paragraph as more topics or a longer story would need more than one paragraph. I've included an example NARRATIVE paragraph for you to read.
- Notice that the paragraph does not begin with "Once upon a time", "One time at..." or "It was Christmas Day, the first day of grade 5..." . Think of a way to grab the reader's attention and draw them in to your writing. You don't need to tell us what you're going to write about... just start writing.

Totem Pole

By A. Williams



My grandparent's house was a magical place for me when I was a little girl. There was an amazing loft where I could spy down on my brothers, a smelly chicken coop to visit every morning to check for fresh eggs, a wonderful swing in a gigantic, old maple tree and a tall, black totem pole on the front steps. The totem pole had always fascinated me and I loved to stare into the blank eyes of the thunderbird at the top and wonder what he was thinking. I enjoyed running my small hands over the chiseled black wood and marveling that the carver had included details such as eyes, wings and even feathers. However, it was the thunderbird's nose that intrigued me the most. His long black beak stuck out from the totem pole and had two carved nostrils at the curved end. The nostrils were curious black holes that tempted me. One day I cautiously poked my finger into the thunderbird's nostril, not sure how far it would go. I suddenly felt a sharp sting and I screamed as I yanked my finger out. Not only had I poked my finger into the nose of the thunderbird, but also right into the back end of a bumble bee. Whenever I see the stately totem, now on my parents' front steps, I remember what a painful and embarrassing way it was for me to learn to "keep my fingers to myself".

1. What is another way the author could have begun the paragraph?

2. Notice how the paragraph builds to a climax. What sentence is the climax or high point of interest in the story? _____
3. Choose three words from the paragraph that you think were helpful in expressing or explaining an idea.

4. Why were these words helpful? _____



Narrative Paragraph Brainstorming



What Happened??

Why / How Did it Happen??

Why Is This Event Important To You? Why is it significant?

When / Where Did it Happen?

Title / Catchy Opening Sentence Ideas



My Trip to Maui



One time my family and I went to Maui. We went because it was spring break and my dad was able to take some time off. My mom told me we were going one day at dinner. I screamed, I was so excited. So we packed our bags, drove to the Airport and got on the plane. It was fun going on the plane because I'd never been on one before. Then we watched a movie on the plane—it was "Pirates of the Caribbean". Then we landed on Maui, picked up our rental car and drove to our hotel. Our hotel was real nice. It had a pool, shops, a nice beach and a cute lifeguard. We did lots of fun things on Maui. It was my first time going to the tropics, which I really love. We drove to Hana, snorkeled and went to the beach everyday. One day I almost drowned when I got caught in a rip tide and in some big waves. It is scary. Then we came home and the plane is delayed in Honolulu. Then we had to go to school and I was sad. I love Maui, it was the best vacation ever of my life, it was great, you should go.