

Writing a Personal Narrative

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Synopsis

This unit will focus on teaching ninth grade students how to write a personal narrative. Too often students worry about things like grammar, spelling, and paragraph organization. Students fear writing and dread the thought of any writing assignment. Writing should be a way of expressing one's individuality. I want my students to develop their own voice and their own style of writing and express their thoughts on paper without worrying about grammar or mechanics. I want them to enjoy writing and want them to write more than what is required. Writing a personal narrative will provide students with the opportunity to write their own story. Giving students a chance to write about their own lives will remove the fear of writing and encourage them to *want* to write. *They Cage the Animals at Night*, an autobiography written by Jennings Michael Burch, will be the inspiration of their personal narratives. We will examine several pieces of non-fiction and through a series of pre-writing activities, students will write about one specific moment in their lives that was life changing.