

# Developing a Narrow, Clearly Defined Focus for Personal Narratives: Three Prewriting Graphic Organizers

## Brainstorming Chart for Personal Narratives

*List ideas based on your own experiences.*

<b>Special Places, Trips, or Vacations</b>	<b>Trials and Tribulations</b>	<b>First Time/Day</b>
<b>Triumphs/Proud Moments</b>	<b>Friendships</b>	<b>Family Traditions</b>
<b>Growing Up</b>	<b>Mistakes</b>	<b>Other Ideas</b>

## Narrowing the Focus of an Idea

**Brainstorming Idea.** *Select one brainstorming idea that is really important to you.*

**List and Choose.** *List specific things that you remember about this experience. Then read over your ideas. Pick one memory and place a check mark in the box before it.*

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## Developing the Central Idea of a Personal Narrative

**Narrowed Focus/Topic.** *Copy your singular, significant event/experience here.*

**Important Details.** *Visualize what happened. List several important details, focusing on what happened and on your feelings, thoughts, and impressions.*

**Significance.** *What is the significance (importance) of this event/experience, or what was its effect on you then and/or now?*

**Central Idea.** *Write the central idea of your personal narrative. The central idea should include the singular, significant event and why it's important or meaningful to you.*