

Peer-Conferencing Tool for Personal Narratives

Name of Writer:

Date:

Name of Reviewer:

Date:

Directions to the Reviewer

Read the draft. Make suggestions for improvement. Be specific. Consider the questions listed below. Jot down notes for your conference with the writer. Be prepared to share your responses.

What is the writer's purpose? Is the writer able to communicate the significance or importance of the experience?

Is the topic too large to cover in this essay? If so, how can the writer narrow the topic and clearly define and sustain the central idea?

Does the introduction make me want to read the rest of the essay? If not, why?

Are the ideas presented logically and easy to follow? Are there places the author can strengthen sentences to connect ideas? Add transitions?

Are the characters interesting? Does the writer use an appropriate amount of dialogue? Where does the author need to improve his or her character descriptions?

Does the writer describe the setting using sensory details? How can the author strengthen the setting description?

Does the writer use interesting, specific details that add substance and contribute to the portrayal of the experience? Does the author show, rather than tell about, this experience? If so, where?

Are there parts that could be left out? If so, where?

Are there places where the writer could have used more purposeful and precise language? If so, what words do you suggest?

Are there any parts you found confusing? If so, what parts?

Does the conclusion bring closure to the essay? Does the writer leave you with a lasting impression of the personal experience and/or insight?

Does the essay include a variety of sentence types?

What do you like best about the personal narrative? Why?

What could the writer do to most improve this essay?

Are there spelling and grammatical errors?