

A JOURNEY TO AMERICA

Personal, Biographical, or Imagined Narrative

Purpose: For this narrative you will indirectly be answering the essential question, *which people, customs, and beliefs have shaped American life?* In a more modern style, create a story of immigration to America. This could be a true story about your family, a story that is partially true, or a completely fabricated account. You may choose to use first person or third person narration. Be sure to include the following in your narration:

- a. Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation and its significance, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events.
- b. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
- c. Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole and build toward a particular tone and outcome (e.g., a sense of mystery, suspense, growth, or resolution).
- d. Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.
- e. Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the text.

Format: Your narrative should be a minimum of 1500 words, and follow MLA format.

Audience: Your report should be written for a general audience of all ages.

Organization:

Exposition: Grab the audience's attention by introducing characters, the setting, and the situation for the immigration. You will want to include all the elements of good story telling: dialogue (two characters speaking to one another), interior monologue (speaking to oneself), descriptive and sensory detail (sight, sound, touch, smell, taste).

Rising Action: Include complications or barriers that stand in the way of the immigration. Build suspense and interest by using dialogue, interior monologue, and intense action. Make the reader feel for the characters, and perhaps doubt that there will be a good outcome. The more challenges, the better...usually.

Climax: Choose a specific moment that the main difficulty is overcome. One technique is to slow this event down in the pacing by describing every detail.

Falling action and Resolution: Provide at least 300 words that describe the experience of the new world—America. Include in this a 100-200 word reflection by the narrator and/or characters describing what was experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the text.

Pre-Writing

Part of the story	What happens?	Techniques: Who speaks? What is described deeply? Is there interior monologue? Speeding or slowing of events? Multiple plot lines?
Exposition:		
Rising Action:		
Rising Action:		
Rising Action:		
Climax:		
Falling action and Resolution		