

Personal Narrative Planning Sheet

A personal narrative is focused on a **single event** from a writer's life and is supported by details that emphasize the significance of the experience. **FYI:** You should choose a meaningful experience. Many of us have experienced meaningful, yet tragic situations. I want you to feel free to write about any of life's experiences, but know that I am bound by law to inform school authorities of any writing, which involves someone hurting you or you involved in illegal or harmful activities.

Name _____

Date _____

Brainstorm

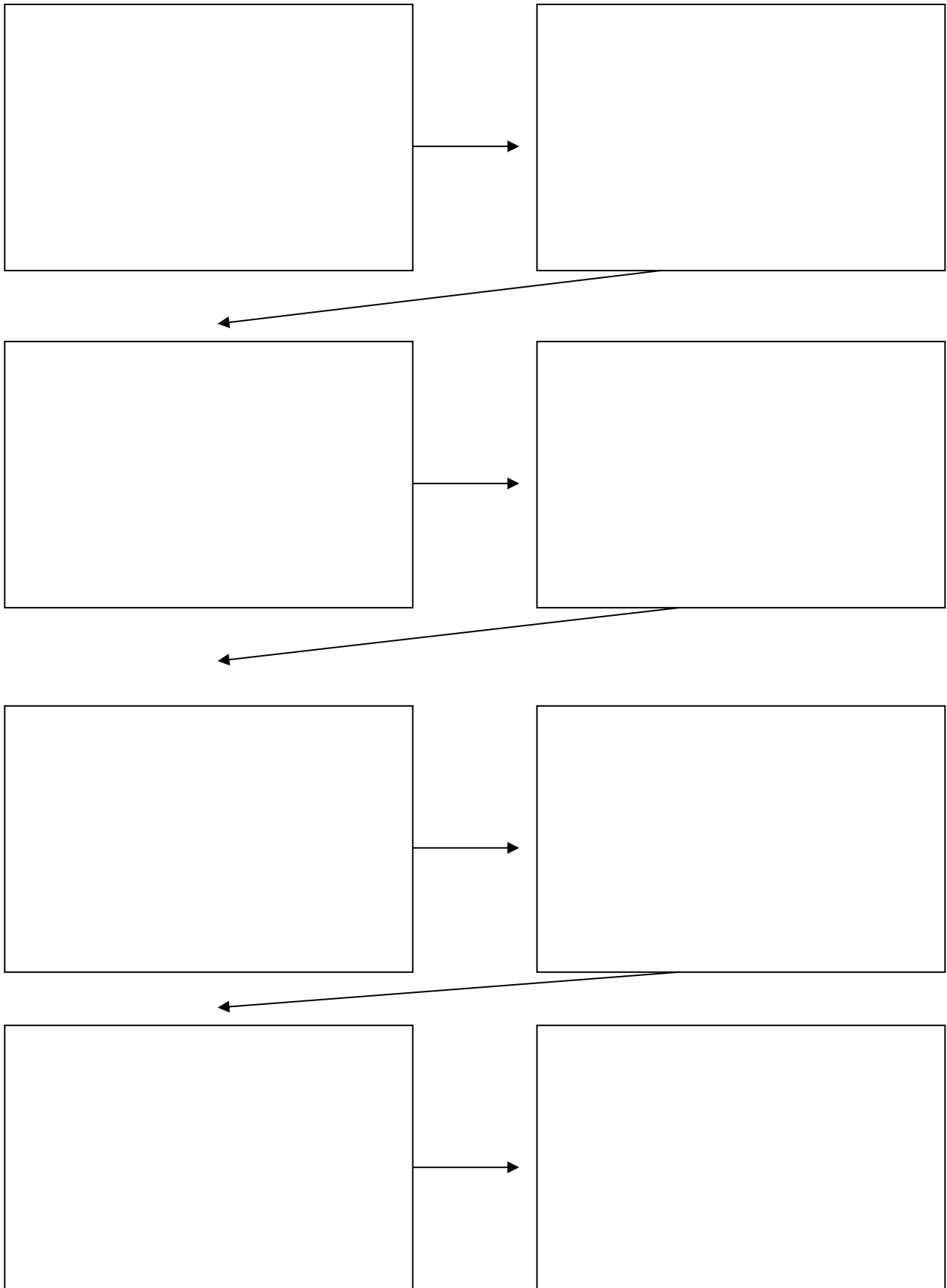
Name an important incident/event in your life:	Why is that important to you? How is it significant?

Narrow Your Topic: Put a star by the event in your brainstorm that you want to write about and answer the questions below to further expand on that idea.

Describe the Setting: (when and where)

Describe the Other People who will make an appearance in your narrative: (name a characteristic or physical description for each person – include yourself!)

Map out the Event: In each box, write a description or draw a sketch to show what took place. After mapping, go back and draw a large star at the point in the story where the reversal of fortune takes place. You can have more than one star.



Drafting

Title: _____

Let your title be specific and creative. "My Personal Narrative" or a label like, "The Day My Dog Died" **should be avoided**. Use your title as a space to peak the reader's interest or reveal something significant about your narrative.

Opening: Paragraph 1

You have so many choices when opening a personal narrative! You could open with dialogue, a flashback, a description of the setting, a personal reflection, sound, or an idea of your own. Just be sure that everything in your opening connects to the main event of your narrative and its significance. It needs to grab the reader's attention.

"The Story" Body Paragraphs 2-4

Write your body on your own paper by following the story map on the previous page. Usually, each box will also be a new paragraph. Be sure to include transition words

Conclusion/Reflection Paragraph 5

In addition to telling us how the event ended, a conclusion includes some further personal reflection. Why did you decide to write about this event? How is important to who you are today? Be careful of the tendency to tell us how *everything* ends. Readers don't expect a fairy tale ending or for all loose ends to be tied up. Just tell the reader the truth and include some reflection - you'll write an incredible personal narrative!

You should also answer these kinds of questions for your reader:

- What did I learn in that moment?
- What was I thinking?
- What did I want to happen?
- What did I wish I could change?
- How will this change my future?
- What did I learn about myself?
- How did I impact someone else?

Conclusion:
