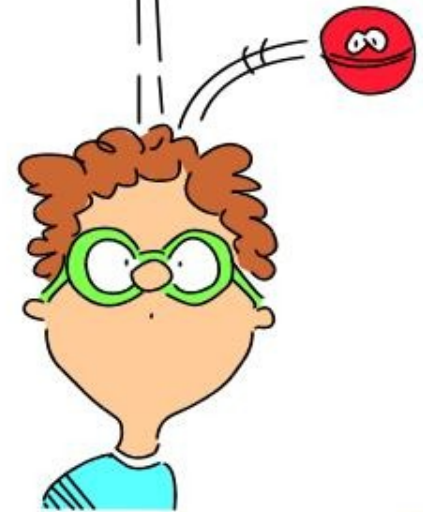


# Autobiographical Incident (personal narrative)

Narrative Writing tells a story;  
it reports  
“**what happened.**”



# Autobiographical Narrative

- It involves telling a story by relating a sequence of events that are linked in time.
- Almost all of us have attempted narration by telling a good story about an experience or something we have observed.
- Even though our stories may have been oral, a story is a story and the techniques are essentially similar.

**In real life, events often occur randomly or chaotically, but in a narrative, they must be told or shown . . .**

**In some orderly sequence – The Plot**

**By a particular person – The Narrator**

**From a particular perspective – The Point of View**

**Within a definite time and place – The Setting**

**For a particular **reason** – The Purpose**



**Effective Narratives don't  
just report....  
they **build**  
to a particular purpose**

- An important event may fill whole pages, even though it took only minutes to unfold; a less important event may be dispensed with a sentence even though it last hours.





- Let's say a writer wants to narrate the experience of shooting the winning basket in a ballgame to demonstrate how he became more confident in his abilities.
- He might provide a slow-motion account of the few minutes' time when the basketball was thrown to him, including vivid details of the setting and a description of the opposing guard that hovered near him, as well as a moment-by moment replay of his emotion and thoughts.
- At the same time he will compress events that merely fill in background or link main events, such as how he got to the basketball game or what he did when he went home that evening. The writer will entirely omit many events, such as who sang the national anthem, that have no significance for the point.



# SO WHAT?

- Ask yourself this question when making a decision about what to include or not include. If the information does not connect directly to the event being related, it should be eliminated.



# Autobiographical Incident

## Step 1: Analyze the Prompt

**Prompt #1: Write about a time you tried to be something you're not.**

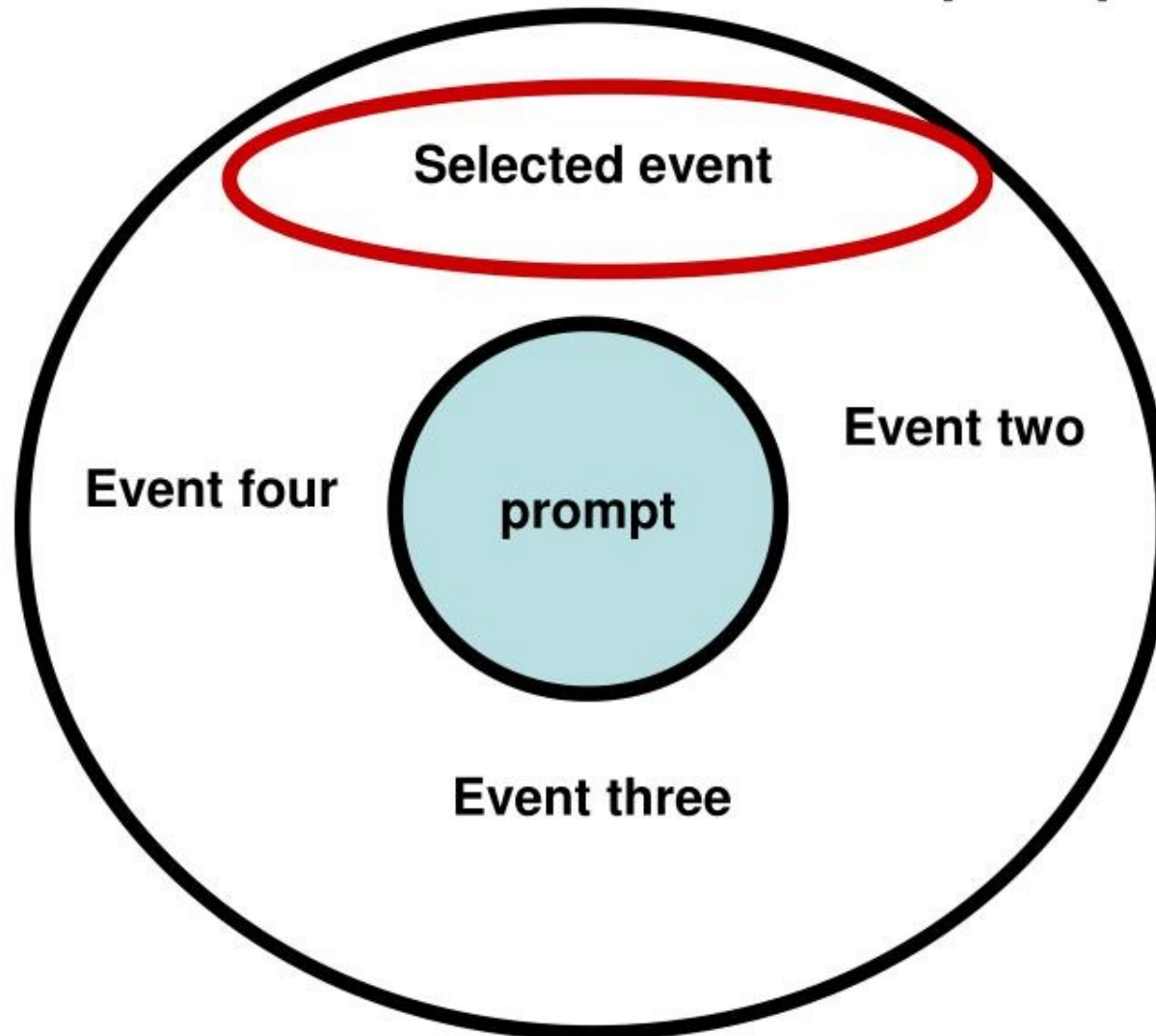
**Prompt #2: Write about a time you tried to impress someone.**

**Prompt #3: Write about a time you regret how you treated someone.**



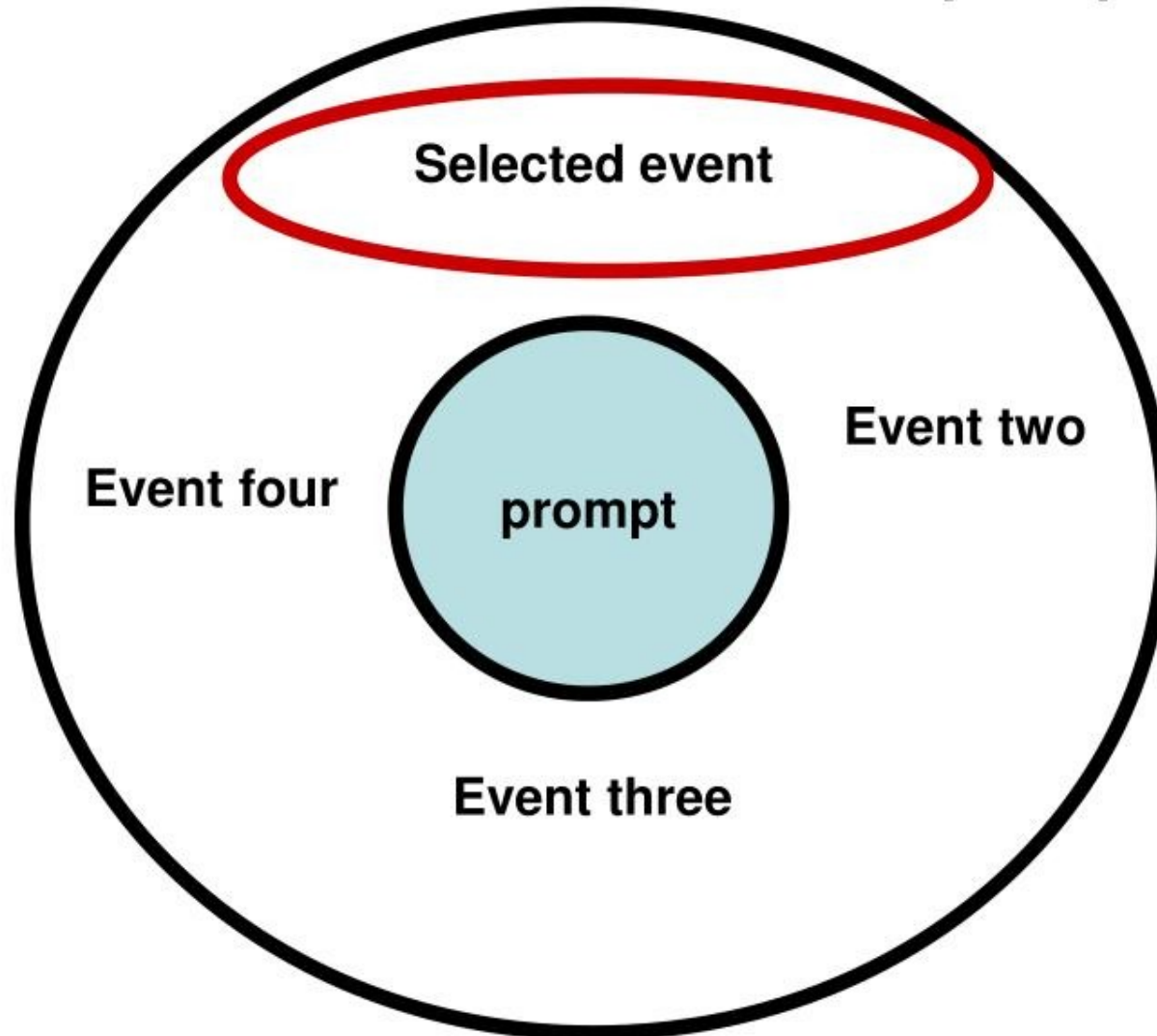
# Autobiographical Incident

**Step 2: Brainstorm events related to the prompt in a circle map.**



# Autobiographical Incident

**Step 2: Brainstorm events related to the prompt.**



# Autobiographical Incident

Step 3: Explore your memory for details.

Working Title Based on Prompt

Scenes

where

where

# Autobiographical Incident

Step 3: Explore your memory for details.

Working Title Based on Prompt

Scenes

where

where

# Autobiographical Incident

Step 3: Explore your memory for details.

## Working Title Based on Prompt

Scenes

where

Key People

Person 1

w/ adj.

Person 2

w/ adj.

Person 3

w/ adj.

Person 4

w/ adj.

where



# Autobiographical Incident

Step 3: Explore your memory for details.

## Working Title Based on Prompt

Scenes

where

Key People

Person 1

w/ adj.

Person 2

w/ adj.

Person 3

w/ adj.

Person 4

w/ adj.

where

# Autobiographical Incident

Step 3: Explore your memory for details.

## Working Title Based on Prompt

### Scenes

Where

Where

### Key People

Person 1

w/ adj.

Person 2

w/ adj.

Person 3

w/ adj.

Person 4

w/ adj

### Main Events

Event 1

Event 2

Event 3

Event 4

Event 5

# Autobiographical Incident

Step 3: Explore your memory for details.

## Working Title Based on Prompt

### Scenes

Where

Where

### Key People

Person 1

w/ adj.

Person 2

w/ adj.

Person 3

w/ adj.

Person 4

w/ adj

### Main Events

Event 1

Event 2

Event 3

Event 4

Event 5

# Autobiographical Incident

Step 3: Explore your memory for details.

## Working Title Based on Prompt

### Scenes

Where

Where

### Key People

Person 1

w/ adj.

Person 2

w/ adj.

Person 3

w/ adj.

Person 4

w/ adj.

### Main Events

Event 1

Event 2

Event 3

Event 4

Event 5

Event 6

Event 7

### Significance

What has  
this event  
taught you?

# Autobiographical Incident

Step 3: Explore your memory for details.

## Working Title Based on Prompt

### Scenes

Where

Where

### Key People

Person 1

w/ adj.

Person 2

w/ adj.

Person 3

w/ adj.

Person 4

w/ adj.

### Main Events

Event 1

Event 2

Event 3

Event 4

Event 5

### Significance

Why is this  
worth  
writing  
about?



# Autobiographical Incident

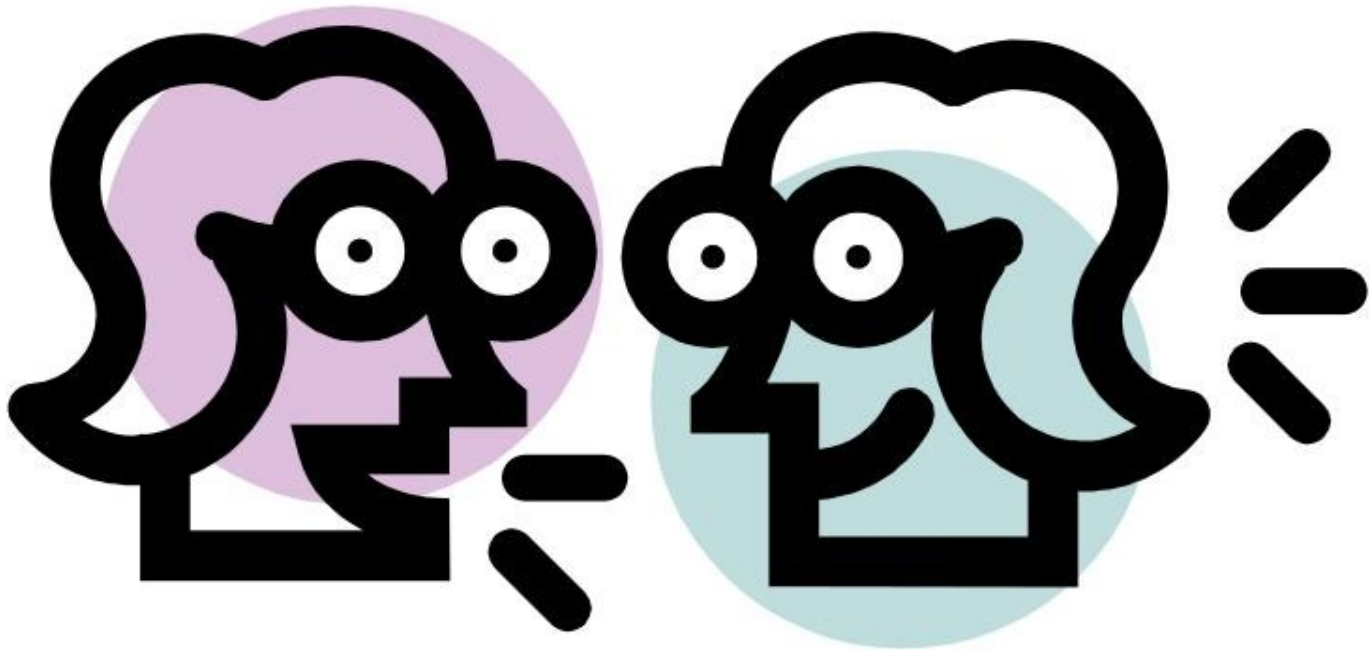
Step 3: Explore your memory for details.

**A time I tried to be something I'm not and impress others!**

<u>Scenes</u>	<u>Key People</u>	<u>Main Events</u>	<u>Significance</u>
<u>Bedroom</u>	<u>Judy-sweet</u>	1. Invited to party	<b>I learned it is better to just be happy with who I am!</b>
<u>Car</u>	<u>David—mean</u>	2. Went to Judy's	
		3. went in closet	
		4. Borrowed Jeans	
		5. Squeezed in jeans	
<u>Party</u>	<u>Linwood-heroic</u>	6. Got in car	
		7. Drove to party	
		8. Got sick	
		9. Went home	

# Autobiographical Incident

**Step 4: Orally rehearse your autobiographical narrative with another person.**



# **Autobiographical Incident**

**Step 5: Write an introduction. Include a grabber, some background information, and a hint of the topic.**

**Teacher should create a sample introduction that includes the elements described. You can move the yellow grabber, background and hint buttons to the appropriate place.**

**Grabber**

**Hint**

**Background**

## LEADS

**\*JUMP IN LEAD**                    *Jump into the middle of your story and leave the reader wanting more.*  
And suddenly everything stopped.

**\*SNAPSHOT LEAD**                *Create a picture in the reader's mind.*  
The wind blew silently making the soft, green grass swerve back and forth.

**\*TALKING LEAD**                  *Start with a character speaking.*  
"Texas? What do you mean Texas?" I exclaimed furiously as if the world was ending.

**\*THOUGHTSHOT LEAD**    *Start with a thought inside a character's head.*  
I couldn't imagine why my father was hollering for me at 7:00 in the morning. I thought fast about what I might have done.

**ACTION LEAD**                    *Start with the main character doing something.*  
I gulped my milk, pushed away from the table, and bolted out of the kitchen, slamming the screen door behind me. I ran down to the dock as fast as my legs would carry me. My feet pounded on the old wood, hurrying me toward the sound of my dad's voice.

**ONOMATOPOEIA LEAD**    *Start with a sound.*  
Bam! I smacked my head into the wall.

These are leads that can be a weak start. It is possible to have a strong introduction with one of these papers, but be careful how you use them.

**THE "IT" LEAD**                                *Start with the word "it".*  
It was a beautiful day in Texas.

**QUESTION LEAD**                  *Start with a question.*  
Have you ever had something difficult happen to you?

**DEFINITION LEAD**                *Start with a definition.*  
Webster's defines difficult as ...

**GENERAL LEAD**                                *Start with a simple statement about your topic.*  
Riding a bike was difficult for me.

# Autobiographical Incident

**Step 6: Flow Map the first event that sets up the series of events that will lead to the main point of your narrative. This event precedes the most important event. Include details.**

**Transition**

**First Event**

**Details**

---

**Details**

---

**Details**

---

**Details**

---



# Autobiographical Incident

**Step 6: Flow Map the first event that sets up the series of events that will lead to the main point of your narrative. This event precedes the most important event. Include details.**

**Transition**

**First Event**

**Details**

---

**Details**

---

**Details**

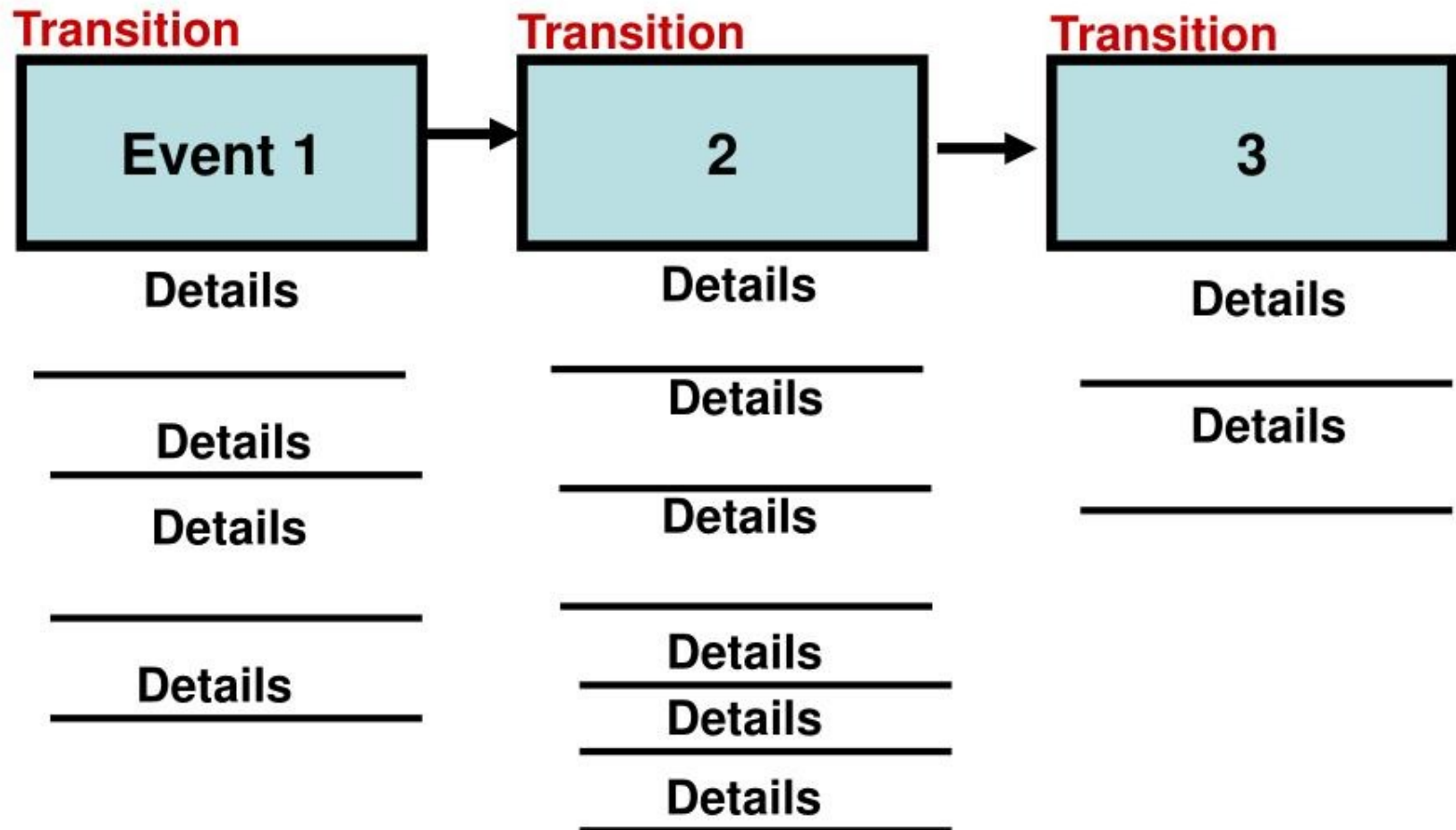
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**Details**

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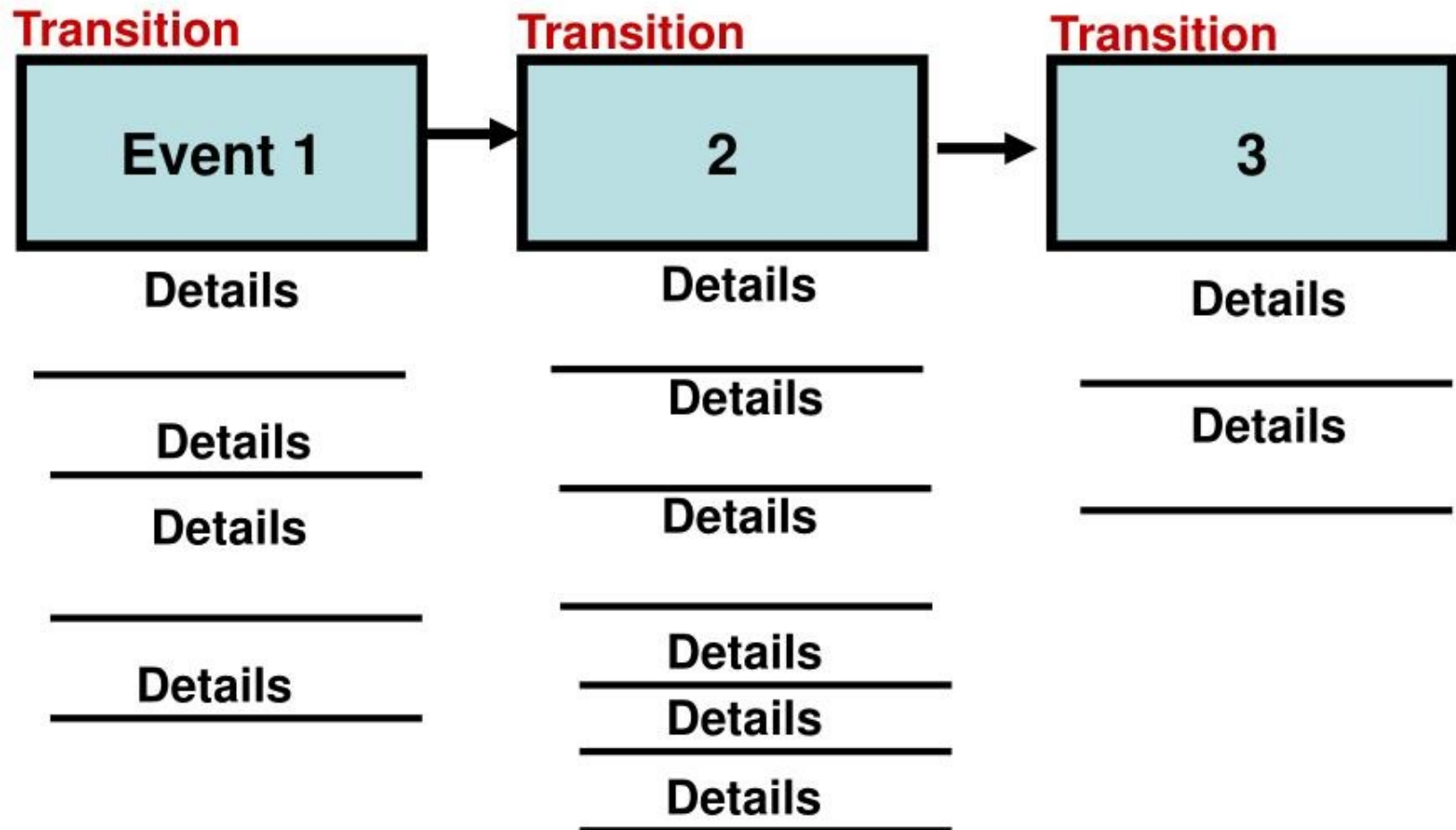
# Autobiographical Incident

**Step 7: Flow Map the next events (these lead up to your main point). Remember to slow down the action and use precise details.**



# Autobiographical Incident

**Step 7: Flow Map the next events (these lead up to your main point). Remember to slow down the action and use precise details.**



# **Autobiographical Incident**

**Step 8: Write your conclusion. Remember to state or imply what happened as a result of your experience. Try to use a statement about human experience in general .**

**Teacher should create a sample conclusion. Move the Yellow buttons to the appropriate part of your example.**

**relate to human experience**

**why it was memorable**

# **Autobiographical Incident**



**Step 9:**

**Write your story using your  
Flow Map.**

**Be sure to incorporate varied  
narrative strategies**