Narrative Papers Study Sheet

Goals of this Study Sheet
The goal of this study sheet is to breakdown the components of narrative papers. We will discuss the purpose of narratives, the elements and the big aspects that they hold.

The Purpose of a Narrative Paper
The purpose of a narrative paper is to tell a story. They often tell a story from a personal experience that allows you to express yourself in many creative ways and then reflect on that experience. Unlike other papers, you are not trying to make an argument or prove anything to the readers. The narrative should provide a major meaning or lesson learned in life.

Some of the elements in a Personal Narrative include:

- It is written in first person. (“I” point-of-view)
- It is an autobiographical story that talks about a time that resulted in personal growth.
- The writer must express his/her emotions and feelings.

After developing an idea for your narrative, make sure to spend enough time introducing your characters. Whether they are animals, objects or people, provide a background to each one so your readers can believe and ultimately, engross themselves in your writing.

The biggest challenge you might face while writing your narrative is finding your own unique style and voice. The best way to overcome this is to flush all your ideas out. Think of it as free writing; a technique that can be looked at as brainstorming but with complete sentences and thoughts. It allows you to write freely without worrying about grammar, spelling errors or wondering if what you are saying is making sense. Try to let
all and any ideas flow and try to refrain from editing till the end. Doing this helps you to see all the raw, unedited ideas and thoughts you have instead of hitting a block.

**Example of a Personal Narrative Introduction Paragraph**

“Learning something new can be a scary experience. One of the hardest things I’ve ever had to do was learn how to swim. I was always afraid of the water, but I decided that swimming was an important skill that I should learn. I also thought it would be good exercise and help me to become physically stronger. What I didn’t realize was that learning to swim would also make me a more confident person.”