Narrative Paper Outline

I. Introduction:
   A. **Hook/First Sentence:** This is where you catch your reader’s attention.
      When reading a narrative paper, it’s important to make the reader want to continue reading about your life and care about what you’re saying. There are many ways to do this; here are a few:
      1. Anecdote
      2. Quote
      3. Rhetorical Question
   B. **Give Background Information:** If the reader needs to know something that happened in the past to understand your narrative, this is the place to do it. Never backtrack in your body paragraphs: do it now.
   C. **Thesis:** This is where you will state the reason you’re telling this narrative. How did it affect you? Why was it so significant? Did it change your life?

II. Body Paragraphs (usually 3, but there can be more or less, depending on the assignment length)
   A. **Topic/Opening Sentence:** What main idea/part of your narrative is going to be discussed in this paragraph? This should set the scene for the rest of the paragraph.
   B. **What Happened?:** This is where you get into the event that took place in your narrative. Simply describe it; since narratives are usually on the storytelling spectrum, use lots of description. Describe sights, smells, feelings, etc.
   C. **Analyze:** Why was this moment described so significantly? Read into the described event and justify why it’s important to your narrative.
   D. **Link back to thesis:** Read your thesis again and link your event/analysis directly to your thesis. Reinforce that this event was significant and that it argues exactly what was said in your thesis.

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E. Transition: Lead your reader to your next main point with a transition sentence.

III. Conclusion

A. Restate Thesis: Repeat your thesis in the first sentence; typically, make sure you reword the thesis, as opposed to copying it.

B. Synthesize Ideas: Take the main ideas from each of your body paragraphs and discuss them again briefly, emphasizing why each is important and how they contribute to your thesis statement.

C. Ending: Try to end with something memorable; something meaningful that your reader won’t forget. Readers tend to remember the last thing they read the best, therefore it’s important to make sure the last sentence wraps up the paper appropriately.