Choose one of the story starters below for a personal narrative. You could also use these ideas to help you brainstorm personal experiences that you think will interest readers. Then write a personal narrative about the experience you choose.

- One time my family and I went . . .
- Once when I was ____ years old, . . .
- I was really proud when . . .
- A funny thing happened to me when . . .
- One summer I . . .
- I worked really hard to learn . . .
- I was scared when . . .
- My favorite memory is . . .
- Last year my best friend and I . . .
- During a storm, I . . .
- At the amusement park, I rode a . . .
- I went to the Halloween party disguised as a . . .
- I learned to swim when . . .
- I couldn’t believe I lost my . . .
- I will never forget the time when . . .
- I was completely surprised when . . .
- It took a lot of courage for me to . . .
- I would like to relive the time when ____ so I could . . .
- I didn’t think it was fair when . . .
- It was a day when everything went wrong . . .
- The accomplishment I am most proud of is . . .

### Writing Traits for a Personal Narrative

Ask yourself these questions throughout the writing process.

| **Ideas** | Am I telling an interesting, true story about something that happened to me?  
Do I include all the important details about my personal experience?  
Do I express my thoughts and feelings about the experience? |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| **Organization** | Am I planning my writing by organizing details in a graphic organizer (such as a storyboard, time line, or flowchart), a list, an outline, or notes?  
Does the beginning grab the reader’s attention?  
Does the middle show events in time order?  
Does the ending tell what I learned or how I felt? |
| **Voice** | Do I tell the story from a first-person point of view, using the words I, me, we, and us?  
Does my personality come through in my writing?  
Do I use an appropriate tone for my intended audience? |
| **Word Choice** | Do I use descriptive words that paint a picture for readers?  
Do I use exact words that clearly express ideas and feelings?  
Do I use natural language that sounds like me?  
Do I use transition words and phrases to connect events and ideas? |
| **Sentence Fluency** | Do I use a variety of sentence types and lengths?  
Do I avoid rambling or run-on sentences? |
| **Conventions** | Do I use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization? |
| **Presentation** | Do I include visuals, such as photos or drawings, to help readers picture the experience?  
Is my writing neat or typed and easy to read?  
Does my paper have paragraph indents, consistent margins, and correct spacing? |