

Personal Narrative Practice Prompt Ideas

The following list of prompts has been compiled as a source of ideas to be used throughout the State Writing Test Preparation phase of Writing Workshop. These are suggested ideas, not required prompts. They can be used as practice prompt ideas for student writing, as a resource for the Addressing the Prompt anchor lesson from the Test Preparation Unit, or in any other way deemed appropriate. Blank spaces have been left at the end of this list where teachers can add their favorite prompts.

- Everyone needs help at some point in his or her life. Think about a time when you helped someone who needed it. Describe happened and how it felt to help somebody.
- We learned that a journey is usually considered a long trip that often causes a person to change in some way. Think of a time that you were on a journey of some kind. Describe what happened and what you accomplished on this journey.
- Write about a time you met someone new (a classmate, a neighbor, or someone else). Explain what happened and how you felt.
- Write about a time weather affected your life (rain, snow, thunderstorm, or tornado, etc.) Tell the story. Include what happened and how you felt.
- Write about a time you received some unexpected news. The news may have been good or bad. Include what happened and how you felt.
- Tell about your best or worst day ever. Tell the story about what happened. Include how you felt.
- Think of a time you felt:
 Frightened,
 Annoyed,
 Nervous, or
 Surprised.
Pick ONE, and tell the story of what happened.
- Our field trip was a day to remember. Tell the story of what happened.
- Describe a time when you learned to something new such as riding a bike, cooking a snack, reading a whole book, playing soccer, etc. Write about what you did, thought, and felt in your story.
- Think of a teacher you have had that you will remember for a long, long time. Tell a story of something special that happened with that teacher.

- Think of a day you always want to remember. Tell what happened on this memorable day.
- Tell about a very important day in your life. Write a Personal Narrative that describes what happened and how you felt.
- Write about a time that you got something that you really wanted. It might be a pet, possession, or maybe it was something like spending more time with dad, or making the dance team. Describe what happened and how you felt.
- Think about a friend who has been an important part of your life. How did you become friends with this person? Think about when you met, what you did, and how your friendship grew. Write a story about this friendship. Give enough details to tell the reader about this friendship.
- All of us have a favorite place where we get to do what we want. What is your favorite place? Write a story about what you get to do in your favorite place. Give enough details in your story to show your favorite place and what you get to do there.
- All of us have had a special time or adventure in our lives. It could be anything such as a visit with a friend or relative, a party you went to, or a game you watched or played. Or it could be something completely different. Write a story about a special time or adventure that you have had. Give enough details in your story to show what it was like and what made it so special.
- Summer is a special time when children get to do fun things. You have more time during the day to choose activities that you enjoy doing with your friends or family, outdoors or indoors. There are many different ways to have fun in the summer. What's yours? Write a story about your favorite summer activity. Give enough details in your story to show what you were doing and what made this your favorite activity.
- Think of an experience when you realized that you suddenly understood an idea, a skill, or a concept you had been struggling with. Write a narrative that tells the story of your movement toward understanding. Your paper should help readers understand how you felt to struggle with the idea or skill and then to understand.
- Think of a time when you achieved a personal goal. Tell your readers about the story of how you met your goal. Be sure that your readers understand why the goal is important to you.
- Think about an event in your life that seemed bad but turned out to be good. Tell the story of the event that you experienced and help your readers understand how an event that seemed negative turned out to have valuable consequences.

- Teaching someone else how to do something can be rewarding. Think of a skill that you've taught someone else how to do. Think about the events that made up the process of teaching the skill, and narrate the story for your readers.
- Think of a change to a place that you know well, and narrate the events that occurred. Readers should know the details of the change, and they should know how you feel about the changes that occurred.
- Choose a time when you did something that took a lot of nerve, a time when you didn't follow the crowd or a time when you stood up for your beliefs. Think about the details of the event and write a story that tells about what happened. Your narrative should show your readers why you decided to make a stand or try something that took nerve, give specifics on the events, and share how you felt after the event.
- Think of a time when you disagreed with a decision that had been made and did something about it. Write a paper that narrates the events that occurred -- from the decision that was made to your response. Be sure that your paper gives enough details that your readers understand why you disagreed with the decision and why you felt that your response was appropriate.
- Think about your first day of school. Write a story to a friend telling about that day. Be sure to describe the atmosphere including three distinct details and identify what impressed you most about your experience.
- Summer is a time when you can do things you may not be able to do at other times of the year. Think about something you did during the summer that you remember well. It could be something you did with a friend, with your family, or by yourself. What happened?
- Write a story about this summertime memory. Use details so that anyone who reads your story will know what happened.
- Families are an important part of our lives. All families are different but all are special. Write about a memorable event at a family gathering.
- Think about a day when nothing went right. It could have been anywhere. It might have been at home or at school. Write a story about this bad experience.
- Think about the first time you went somewhere or did something all by yourself. Tell a story about what happened.
- Remember an unusual gift that you were given. Tell a story about it to show what made it so unusual.
- Think about a time when you had to do something you didn't really want to do. It could be a chore, a family day, or something in school. Write about one time when you were

surprised at how much fun you had doing this.

- Think about a time you were surprised about something that happened to you. It could be a happy surprise or a disappointment. Write about the event.
- Think about a family friend or relation that you admire. It should be someone who is a role model for you. Think of a time when they did something that showed their kindness or other good qualities.

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