**The Narrative Essay**

Setting

Identify who is involved, where the story takes place,

and when the story takes place

Lead up to the moment when things change

Beginning

Transition Thesis statement: A forecasting statement that indicates

what changes as a result of this experience or why this experience is important (significance, importance, relevance or value).

Story Things happen that result in a change

Begin at the moment that things begin to change. For instance, if the essay is about an exciting trip to Disney World, the *story* begins at Disney World.

The events leading up to that are part of the setting

Be careful of oversimplifying the time of the story.

Look for overuse of simple transitions like and then

*and then, first, second, third, finally* and replace them

with more appropriate transitions like *as, while, since,*

*because, although, during, after*

Focus on details rather than on explanation.

Show what happened rather than explain what

Happened

Be careful of inappropriate shifts in tense.

If the story is being told in past tense, do not

suddenly shift to present tense.

Middle

Significance/Importance/Value of change is

explored/explained

If the conclusion is immediate (explanation comes immediately in time after the event), the essay may not be resolved but may close with a dilemma.

If the conclusion is distant (explanation comes some time after the event), the essay may come to terms with the change.

Transition Sentence that concludes story; final scene at end of s

End

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