

Narrative Essay

A **narrative essay** tells a story. It uses descriptive language to tell the beginning, middle, and end of an event. It has an introduction that engages the reader's interest, details about the main event or action in the story, and a conclusion that describes the outcome.

Narrative Essay Organization

INTRODUCTION

Hook	The hook gets the reader's attention with an interesting or surprising fact .
Background	The background tells the history or what happened before the action.
Thesis	The thesis sentence prepares the reader for the main action of the story, but it doesn't tell the whole story (just a "hint" about the main action).

BODY PARAGRAPHS

The **body paragraphs** tell the main story. They use a lot of details to bring the story to life.

Situation	The situation paragraph describes the when, where, what happens in the story, and why the main event is happening, step by step. It often uses time order.
Rising Action	The rising action is the main events leading to the climax . It also uses time order and many details.
Climax	The climax is the main action , the surprise, or the height of the action.

CONCLUSION

The **conclusion** paragraph tells (1) what happened after the main event, (2) about a lesson the writer learned, and (3) how the writer's life is changed now.

ACTIVITY 1 Identifying Parts of a Narrative Essay

Match the parts of a narrative essay to the examples on the right.

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|--------------------|---|
| 1. Hook | a. I learned that many things in Japan look the same as in the U.K., but they are truly Japanese, and we should appreciate them. Now, travelling is more enjoyable. |
| 2. Background | b. Getting off the airplane, and walking the streets of Tokyo, Japan was very exciting, but it also felt like home. |
| 3. Thesis Sentence | c. Japan is known as "Land of the Rising Sun." |
| 4. Situation | d. When I was young, I always thought Japan was an exotic country with interesting customs. I always wanted to go to Japan. |
| 5. Rising Action | e. I didn't know that I was going to learn an important lesson because of a simple pastry. |
| 6. Climax | f. I was hungry and I wanted something to eat. I found a bakery, and I saw a strawberry jam pastry. |
| 7. Conclusion | g. I finally bit into the pastry and was shocked to find it was not strawberry. |

Narrative Essay Organization: My First Japanese Pastry

Paragraph			
1	INTRO	Hook	• Japan is known as “Land of the Rising Sun.”
		Background	• I always thought Japan was an exotic country with interesting customs. I always wanted to go to Japan.
		Thesis	• Eating a pastry taught me an important lesson.
2	BODY	Situation	• Getting off the airplane, and walking the streets of Tokyo, Japan was very exciting, but it also felt the same as home.
3		Rising Action	• I was hungry and I wanted something cheap and delicious • I found a bakery. • I saw a strawberry jam pastry like back home.
		Climax	• I bit into the pastry and was surprised to find it was not strawberry jam.
4	CONCLUSION		• I began to like sweet bean paste. • I learned that many things in Japan look the same as in the U.K., but they are truly Japanese, and we should appreciate them. • Now, travelling is more enjoyable.



My First Japanese Pastry

Japan is known as the “Land of the Rising Sun.” Ever since I was a child I always thought of Japan as an exotic country, filled with many strange and interesting customs. I had always wanted to travel to Japan and experience its old and unique culture. Luckily, it was my first year in university, and I was able to study abroad in Japan. I was so excited, but little did I know that I was about to learn an important lesson because of a simple pastry.

At first, everything was new and exciting for me. Getting off the airplane from the London and walking the streets of Tokyo for the first time was very exciting. Seeing old temples, shrines, and some people dressed in kimonos was exciting, and it fit my image of Japan exactly. I thought to myself, “My dream has come true!” However, after a while, the new buildings, the modern public transportations system, and the modern department stores with all the signs in English made me feel at home. I thought, “Basically, Japan is like the U. K.”

Walking around, I started to feel hungry. I started looking for something cheap and delicious. I didn’t know where I was, so I followed my nose and found a bakery. There were many breads and pastries everywhere. I really felt like I was back home. Suddenly, I spotted a delicious looking strawberry jam pastry. After I paid, I bit into the pastry. “What is this?” I thought. I was surprised to find that it was not filled with strawberry jam. It was filled with sweet bean paste, called “anko” in Japan. It was such a disappointment.

Although I didn’t like sweet bean pastry that day, I have since learned to love it. What I learned was that many things look the same in Japan as in my country. However, on the inside, they are pure Japanese, and they should be appreciated for what they are. Now, travelling is more enjoyable since I learned that lesson.