



## Narrative Common Questions

Writing Center Hours: 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Email: [okc.tutoring@okstate.edu](mailto:okc.tutoring@okstate.edu)

Phone: 405-945-3278



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**Definition:** The narrative essay should follow a basic story arc with Exposition, Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, and a Resolution.

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### **Common Questions:**

Question: *What do I write about?*

Answer: Choose a moment in your life that is significant to you. This can be a moment that changed you, shaped your personality, or taught you an important lesson.

Question: *How do I start?*

Answer: Start at the beginning, and be sure to introduce important characters and the setting of your story.

Question: *Do I have to go into detail?*

Answer: Details are what make writing rich and interesting, so it is encouraged that you go into detail. However, only write what you are comfortable with if your story is extremely personal.

Question: *How do I end it?*

Answer: A good way to end is by saying how the main conflict in your story was resolved. If you were nervous about your first football game, how did you feel when it was over? Also, let the reader know where your main characters are now, if possible.



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Question: *What is my main conflict?*

Answer: Your conflict is the biggest problem in your story.

There are a few common types of conflict. Perhaps you have a person with whom you have conflict. For example: you aren't getting along with your child's new teacher. Perhaps you have a physical problem, like you were in a car accident. Or perhaps the problem is inside you and has to do with your feelings about the situation you were in.

Question: *I can't think of a good story?*

Answer: Brainstorm major events in your life. Begin by making a timeline of your life and then consider which moments had the biggest impact on who you are. Choose one moment that you feel like you could write the most about.

Question: *My essay isn't long enough?*

Answer: A good way to add to your essay is by making it rich with details. Consider sensory details for all of your descriptions. What did you see, hear, smell, taste, and feel? Add these details to all of the major plot points of your essay and you'll meet your required length in no time!