

Name: _____

Date: _____

Personal Narrative & Memoir

Personal Narrative

A personal narrative is typically written in first-person about something in the narrator's life. It centers on a certain event and relays the narrator's thoughts, feelings, and experiences. A personal narrative may contain information about what the narrator read, encountered, or heard, and his reactions to these encounters. A narrative will develop setting, characterization, speech, and plot, but it is typically limited to the discussion of one particular event or incident.

Ultimately, a narrative will zoom into a singular moment and expand it, and some reflections and even themes may be present, but the purpose is to detail an isolated incident.

Memoir

A memoir is an account of a real person's life. The narrator is a character in a story who reflects on the events of his/her life and, usually, draws certain conclusions. A memoir is typically focused on certain incidents in a person's life, and those incidents make up the individual stories that contribute to the overall work. Unlike an autobiography, which recounts particular historical dates and facts about a person's life, a memoir is a depiction of how that individual remembers his/her own life. The dates and facts in a memoir may not be entirely accurate (though they often are), and they are less important than the memories and the reflections.

Overall, a narrative could fit into a memoir, but a memoir could not fit into a narrative. Additionally, memoirs will often jump around, include flashbacks/memories, and contain multiple stories and events.