

Personal Narrative Frozen Moment

The Spencer County Historic Society wants to feature Taylorsville residents' stories in an on-line time capsule.

The society is asking residents of all ages to write a personal narrative "frozen moment," in which an incident that brought about significant change in a person's life feels like a frozen piece of time and is described in great detail. The time capsule will be featured on the Spencer County Historic Society website for the public to view until the end of the year. At that point, the time capsule will be sealed and unlocked in 6 years.

My Scoring Criteria	
<u>Focus</u>	I keep the focus of my personal narrative on a frozen moment from my life that caused me to change in a significant way.
<u>Setting</u>	I clearly describe the time & place of my frozen moment.
<u>Sequence of Events</u>	I describe a clear beginning, middle, & end of my frozen moment.
<u>Character Feelings</u>	I describe my feelings throughout the frozen moment.
<u>Sensory Detail</u>	I describe my frozen moment in great detail using the 5 senses to paint a vivid picture for the reader.
<u>Format</u>	I use the correct format with a hook, funnel introduction, body, & conclusion.
<u>Writing Conventions</u>	I show control of writing conventions. I use correct spelling, punctuation, capitalization, & language.
<u>Evidence of the Writing Process</u>	My work shows that I intentionally went through the stages of the writing process. I made revisions to my work so that my final draft was the best it could be.

Writing Process Steps	Due Dates
Step 1: Selecting My Frozen Moment	
Step 2: My Proposal	
Step 3: Planning the Introduction Intro Peer Review	
Step 4: Planning the Body Body Peer Review	
Step 5: Planning My Conclusion	
Step 6: Create a Final Draft	
<i>Remember, good writers constantly make improvements to their work!</i>	

Writer's Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

You will write a personal narrative "frozen moment" that brought about change in your life. To help you select what you'll be writing about, you will begin by brainstorming events and their frozen moments in your life that have changed you. After you've selected your frozen moment you must be approved to begin writing. In order to be approved, you will complete "My Proposal" to turn into Mrs. Burge for review.

Step 1: Selecting My Frozen Moment

Brainstorm

1. **Brainstorm** a list of big events from your life AND a frozen moment for each event. (Try to come up with at least a list of 5, because the more you list the more you have to choose from.)
2. **Select** 3 frozen moments from your life that have changed you and **write** them in the ovals below.
3. Next, **read** the narrative elements listed in the 6 boxes below. Each box contains a narrative element that you must include in your personal narrative.
4. **Draw** a line to connect the frozen moment to the narrative element using the corresponding color.

- Possible BIG Events**
1. Baptism
 2. Facing a Fear
 3. Funeral
 4. Holiday
 5. Important Hunting Trip
 6. Moving
 7. New Friend
 8. New Pet
 9. New Sibling
 10. Receiving an Award/Honor
 11. Trip to a New Place
 12. Wedding
 13. Winning a Sporting Event

#1
Big Event:

Frozen Moment:
(Yellow)

#2
Big Event:

Frozen Moment:
(Pink)

#3
Big Event:

Frozen Moment:
(Blue)

<u>Setting</u> I can give the time and place of this frozen moment.	<u>Sequence of Events</u> I can give the beginning, middle, and end of this frozen moment.	<u>Dialogue</u> I can use dialogue to tell about this frozen moment and show character feelings.	<u>Sensory Detail</u> I can describe this frozen moment in great detail-sound, sight, taste, touch, & hear.	<u>Character Feelings</u> I can describe my feelings and the feelings of others throughout this frozen moment.	<u>Change</u> This frozen moment changed me in an important way.
Narrative Elements					

5. What frozen moments connect to all 6 narrative elements?

6. Out of the frozen moments listed in #5 what frozen moment would you like to write about for your personal narrative?

Writer's Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Step 2: My Proposal

Directions: Complete the following to receive approval for the frozen moment you would like to write about in your personal narrative. Use complete sentences and detailed explanations to receive approval. Be specific!

Completed by Mrs. Burge

Approved 😊

Not Approved 😞

1. I would like to write about the following frozen moment: _____

2. Why do you want to write about this frozen moment?

I want to write about this frozen moment because...

3. What background information does the reader need to understand your frozen moment?
Consider these questions: What led up to it? Why did it take place?

The BIG
Picture

4. Provide a brief description about the frozen moment.

Narrow Your
Focus

Who was involved?

What happened?

Where did it take place?

When did it take place?

5. How did this frozen moment change you?

Thesis
Statement

This frozen moment changed me by...

Writer's Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Step 3: Planning my Introduction

Funnel Introduction

Think of your introduction as a funnel. Your introduction starts off full of the big ideas then gets more and more specific as you move down the funnel, or paragraph.

Hook your reader. Use an anecdote, question, quote, or statement of intrigue to capture your reader's attention.

Start with the **BIG picture**. Provide the background info needed to understand what you're writing about.

Narrow your topic. Provide background information needed to understand your event.

State your purpose for writing. Use a thesis statement (1 sentence) to state your purpose for writing. In this paper, your thesis statement will include the event (cause) that changed you and how it changed (effect) you.

Mrs. Burge's Funnel Introduction

Directions: Identify the 4 parts of my funnel introduction.

I made my way on highway 55 rehearsing what I'd practice. "Hello, I'm here to interview for the 6th grade language arts position."

I had applied for several teaching positions over the summer and was on my way to Spencer County Middle School for an interview. I passed green fields sprinkled with black cattle and the DQ with a full parking lot, especially for a weekday morning. By chance I had stumbled on this open teaching position just days before and now, I found myself at my interview. Mr. Downs, the school principal, and six or so others were present. Exactly who was there or what was said, I can't be certain. What I am certain of is this: After the interview, on my tour of the school with Mr. Downs, I was asked, "So, do you want to see your classroom?" It took a moment for my brain to catch up with the meaning of his words. I had just been hired for my first teaching position. *Eeek!* Complete Joy! Delight! Excitement was all I felt. Of course I wanted to see my classroom. *My* classroom. Seeing my first classroom changed me. I was encouraged to know that my hard work to get to this point had paid off and hopeful that I could share what I love with others as a teacher.

Step 3: Planning My Introduction

Hook your readers! Grab their attention so they'll keep reading.

Hook



What type of hook are you using? Check one.

- Anecdote
- Question
- Quote
- Statement of Intrigue

Handwriting practice area for the hook section, featuring horizontal lines and a background pattern of light green circles.

Introduce your reader to what you'll be writing about.

Start with the BIG picture.

Provide the background info needed to understand what you're writing about.
Who? What?
Where?
When?

Narrow your topic.

Provide background information needed to understand your event.

State your purpose for writing.

State the event (cause) and how it changed you (effect).

Handwriting practice area for the introduction section, featuring horizontal lines and a background pattern of light green circles.

Funnel Introduction Peer Review

Peer	
Peer's Name: _____	You have an important job to review the writer's draft and improve his or her writing. Take time to check the quality of writing and offer suggestions for improvement. You are a crucial part of the writing process!

Read your peer's hook and answer the questions below:

1. Did the hook make you want to keep reading? Yes or No
2. If you answered no, why didn't the hook make you want to keep reading?
3. What suggestions do you have for the writer to improve his/her hook?



Would you recommend the hook in the "Student Choice Award" Contest? _____

Read your peer's funnel introduction and answer the questions below:

1. Where was your peer?
2. Who was he/she with?
3. When did this take place?
4. What is the specific frozen moment the writer is focusing on?
5. How did this change your peer?
6. Did your peer start with the big picture and then narrow it down? Yes or No.
7. What suggestions do you have for the writer to improve his/her funnel intro?

Read the material again...and again. This time focus on the following revision & editing:



✓ Add	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details • Snapshots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dialogue • Examples
✓ Remove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distractors • Unnecessary dialogue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details that don't fit
✓ Move	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Words • Phrases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentences • Paragraphs
✓ Substitute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More powerful words • More vivid words 	
✓ Capitalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Names, places, months, titles, I 	
✓ Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Match nouns/verbs correctly 	
✓ Punctuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commas, periods, question marks... 	
✓ Spelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade words or sentences for others 	

Writer	
Next Steps...	Make improvements to your writing based on your peer's answers & suggestions. Then, write a final draft of your hook and funnel intro.

Writer's Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Step 4: Planning the Body (Frozen Moment)

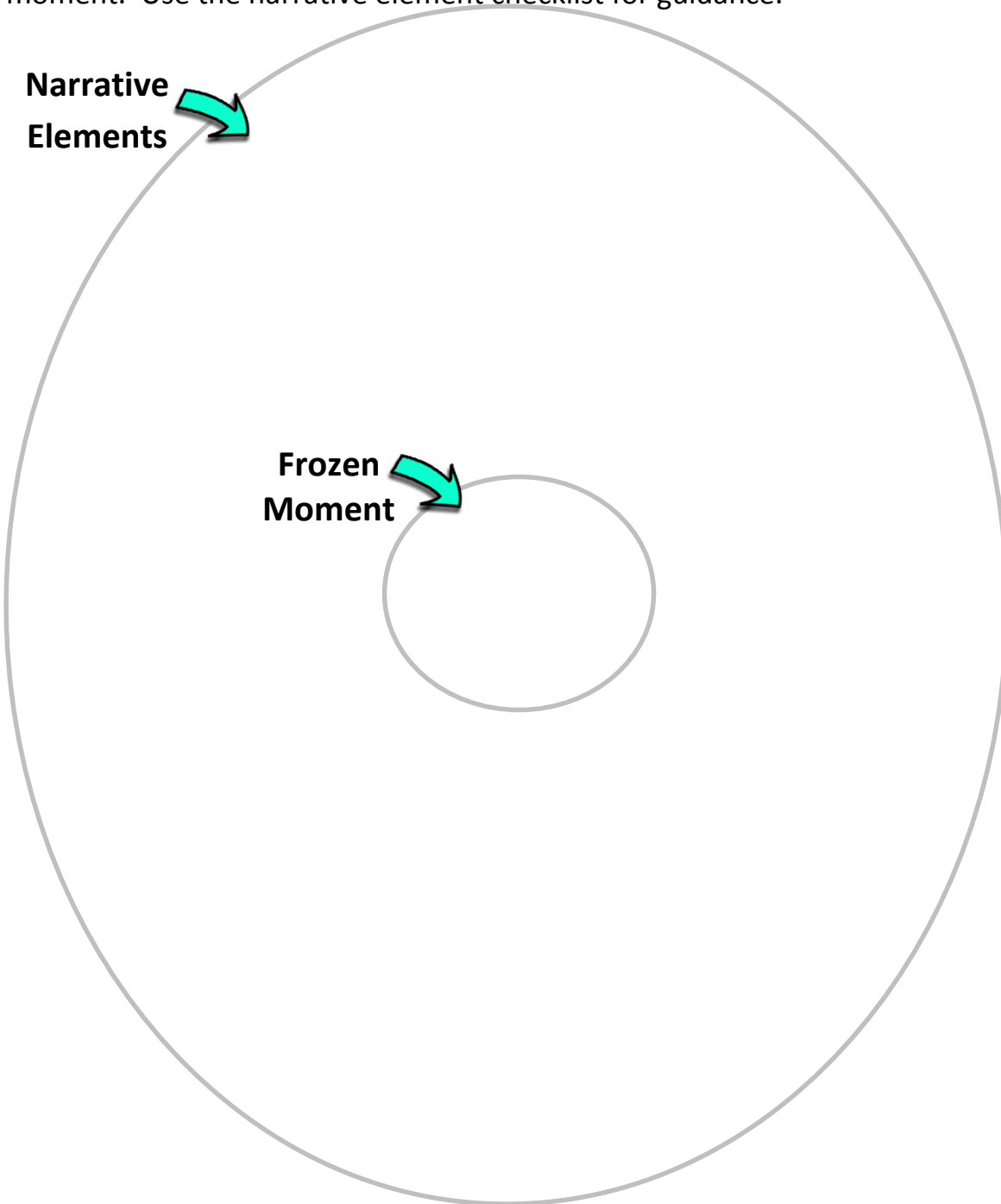
Draw it out! Sketch what happened before, during, and after your frozen moment in the graphic organizer below. This should help you picture the scene as you prepare to write in vivid detail.

Draw it out

The graphic organizer consists of three vertically stacked rectangular boxes. The top box is labeled "Draw it out". A large, thick, black curved arrow starts on the right side of the top box and points down to the right side of the middle box. Another large, thick, black curved arrow starts on the right side of the middle box and points down to the left side of the bottom box. The entire graphic organizer is enclosed in a hand-drawn, irregular border.

Step 4: Planning the Body (Frozen Moment)

Map it out! Record as many details in the graphic organizer as possible about your frozen moment. Use the narrative element checklist for guidance.




Narrative Elements Checklist
Setting
✓ Time
✓ Place
Sequence of Events
✓ Beginning
✓ Middle
✓ End
Dialogue
✓ Conversations between characters
Sensory Detail
✓ See
✓ Hear
✓ Touch
✓ Taste
✓ Smell
Character Feeling
✓ My feelings
✓ Other characters feelings
Change
✓ The important way I think or act differently

Writer	
Next Steps...	Use the 2 graphic organizer to draft your frozen moment body. Add any extra details as you write. Remember, good writers constantly make improvements to their work!

Body Peer Review

Peer	
Peer's Name: _____	You have an important job to review the writer's draft and improve his or her writing. Take time to check the quality of writing and offer suggestions for improvement. You are a crucial part of the writing process!

1. Make comments and corrections on how the writer can improve his or her work.
2. Read the material again...and again. This time focus on the following revision & editing:



Would you recommend this work to a friend to read? _____






✓ Add	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details • Snapshots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dialogue • Examples
✓ Remove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distractors • Unnecessary dialogue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details that don't fit
✓ Move	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Words • Phrases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentences • Paragraphs
✓ Substitute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More powerful words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More vivid words
✓ Capitalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Names, places, months, titles, I 	
✓ Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Match nouns/verbs correctly 	
✓ Punctuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commas, periods, question marks... 	
✓ Spelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade words or sentences for others 	

3. Score the writer's work based on the scoring guide on the next page.

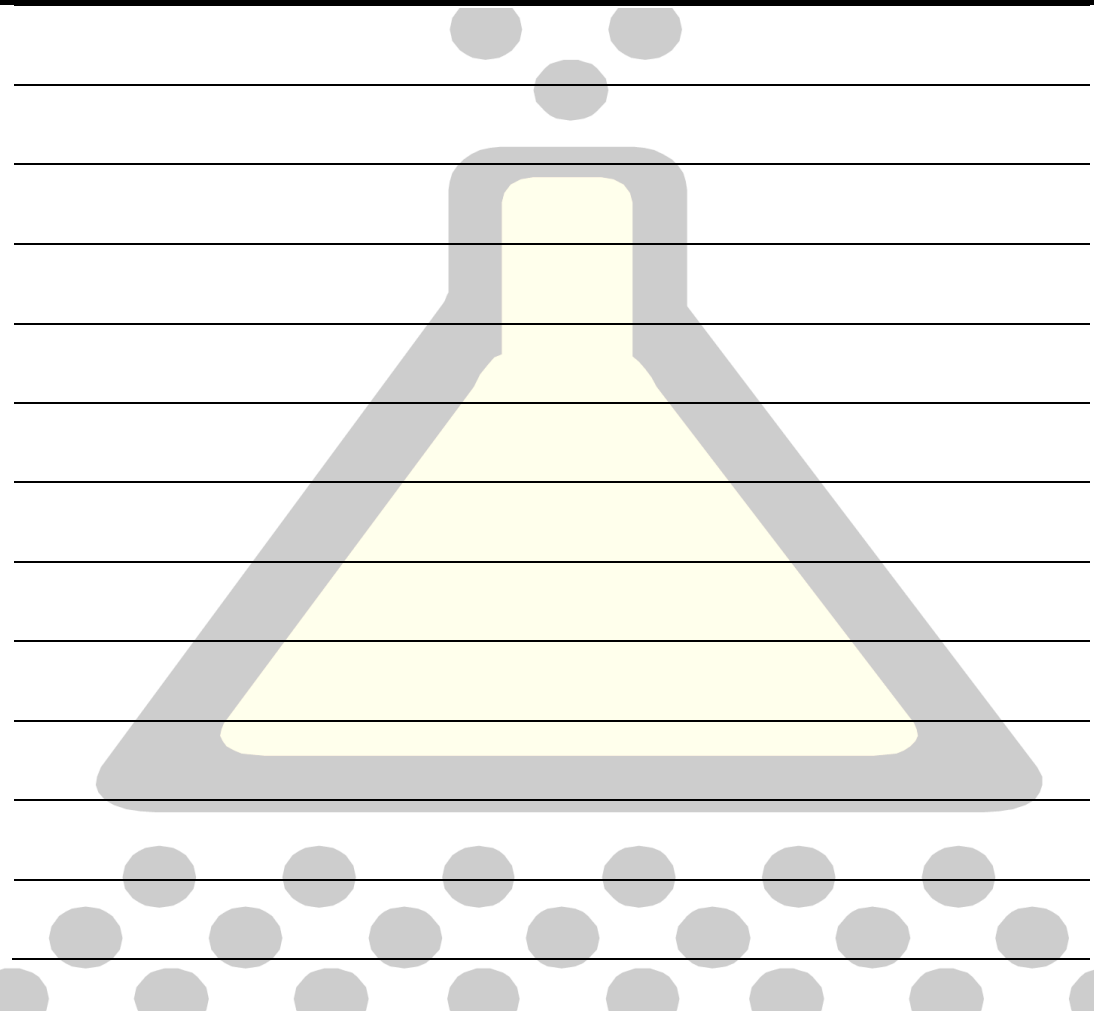
When you have completed the peer check, please give this paper and the draft to the writer for continued improvements.

Writer	
Next Steps...	Make improvements to your writing based on your peer's suggestions and scoring. It is up to you to follow through with the suggestions, editing, and revisions to your writing in order to be an effective writer. Please write a final copy of your body when you're ready to move on.

<h2>Narrative Elements</h2>	<p>You hit the bullseye... like Katniss Everdeen! You effectively incorporate the criteria demonstrating that you are an advanced writer. Your reader was amazed at your skill!</p>  <p>The narrative effectively incorporates...</p>	<p>Good, but you can dig deeper... like the guys in <i>Holes</i>. You incorporate the criteria, but your reader wanted you to dig deeper. Take your writing to the next level.</p>  <p>The narrative incorporates...</p>	<p>Pretty wimpy... like Greg. You left out criteria. Your reader was left feeling confused and disappointed.</p>  <p>The narrative is missing...</p>
<p><u>Focus</u> I keep the focus of my personal narrative on a frozen moment from my life that caused me to change in a significant way.</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>6</p>
<p><u>Setting</u> I clearly describe the time & place of my frozen moment.</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>6</p>
<p><u>Sequence of Events</u> I describe a clear beginning, middle, & end of my frozen moment.</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>6</p>
<p><u>Character Feelings</u> I describe my feelings throughout the frozen moment.</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>6</p>
<p><u>Sensory Detail</u> I describe my frozen moment in great detail using the 5 senses to paint a vivid picture for the reader.</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>6</p>

Step 5: Planning My Conclusion

You're reaching the end of your paper! It's time to restate your purpose for writing to your readers. Then, wrap up and summarize the information you shared with them.

Conclusion	
<p>1. RESTATE your purpose for writing. (Remember you already wrote your thesis statement once in your intro...now restate it!)</p> <p>2. Explain how your frozen moment changed you. For help explaining, ask yourself:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How am I different today? 2. How do I act differently? 3. How do I think differently? 	

Writer	
Next Steps...	<p>Use the graphic organizer to draft your conclusion. Add any extra details as you write. Remember, good writers constantly make improvements to their work!</p> <p>A peer will not check your conclusion draft. It's up to you to make final revisions and editing. You can do it!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Step 6: Create a Final Draft</p> <p>When you're ready complete your final draft to turn in for a grade!</p>