

English 10H

Narrative Writing Assignment

First draft due: Monday, 12/14

Required: Writing Conference in AC

Final draft due: 11:59 pm on Friday, 12/19 on turnitin.com

In 3-4 pages (typed, double-spaced), write a narrative of an event, experience, or small moment in your life that caused you to reflect on some truth or realization about life, humanity, yourself, a person, a situation, etc.

Utilize some of the strategies that Holden uses in *The Catcher in the Rye* to elucidate your philosophy and worldview. Some of these strategies include:

- a character sketch incorporated into story
- digressions - for example, things appreciates or things that annoy
- flashbacks: (this one time..., this reminds me of..., this girls I knew...)
- conscious use of punctuation--syntax, words patterns, use of dash, intentional run-ons, variation of long and short sentences
- language--repetition of words and phrases
- direct address to the reader
- use of examples to illustrate personality/character rather than adjectives
- slang (note: you do not have to use the slang terms that Holden uses--be genuine to your own voice)
- exaggeration/hyperbole
- allusions to literature, film, pop culture, religion
- close scrutiny of life, reality, people, flaws, positive traits, etc.
 - use of sensory details to create tone
- self-deprecation and/or self-scrutiny
- obsession with a particular word, phrase, or act
- generalizations (ex: people are always..., people never...)
- allusions

You are not becoming Holden. Rather, you are writing in your own voice. You do not have to adopt his world views. Be true to your own.

Planning your piece:

-Consider some of the small moments from Catcher:

Ex: Witnessing the little boy humming, the talk with the nuns, the story of James Castle, the story of the man looking for his name on the wall at Pencey, the scene at the movies, the conversation with Mr. Antolini, the conversation with Phoebe in her bedroom, Holden's description of Allie's death/punching out the windows and the baseball glove, etc.

-Think about the last few days, weeks, months, etc. of your life--what little moments stand out to you? Did you have a telling conversation with someone? Did you witness some action that stuck with you? Did you see something that made you particularly happy, sad, confused, etc.?

-Shy away from those overused narrative topics--winning or losing something, a death, a trip somewhere--and think smaller.

-Before you write, consider the following:

-What observations did you make in the moment?

-What did you learn about life, people, yourself in the moment?

-Where will you begin and end your story? Try to focus your narrative on a brief span of time--a half hour at max

-What tangents, asides, or flashbacks might you include?

-What characters will figure into your narrative? What defining characteristics does each character have?

-What generalizations about people can you make in your narrative?

-What do you want to reveal about yourself in this narrative?

Narrative Planning Guide

Narrative moment:

Realization(s):

Ex: That's the thing about people. Sometimes when you least expect it, they completely surprise you.

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Characters and defining characteristics:

(Consider how you will reveal these traits--Through actions? Through dialogue?)

1.

2.

3.

Generalization about people:

People are always...

I hate it when people...

Have you ever noticed how...

Character traits to reveal about yourself:

(Consider how you will reveal these traits)

Tangents, asides, flashbacks to include:

(Think about how Holden goes off on a tangent about something that bothers him, or how he describes some small detail about someone that turns into a story.)

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Allusion: