



## **The Adventures of You**

### Personal Narrative Essay Assignment

A personal narrative is a story (usually in first person) that tells about a memorable event from an individual's life experience. When written as an essay (as opposed to purely as story), the purpose of the narrative is more than entertainment—it should also reveal what the writer learned from the experience, how you grew as a person.

For example, chapter 2 of The Adventures of Tom Sawyer could be written as a personal narrative essay. The story would be about Tom's punishment (whitewashing the fence), while the thesis of the essay (the overall purpose and point of the essay) would be what Tom learned about human nature from his experience (that people want what is difficult to attain and that work is what a person doesn't want to do, while play is doing what a person does want to do).

#### **Your Assignment:**

- This essay is intended to mimic The Adventures of Tom Sawyer; therefore, your essay should include the following: a main story about a real life experience and a lesson you learned from this experience (the purpose to telling this story/the reason why you remember this experience so vividly).
- Keep in mind that this is a school project, so be sure to choose a story that is appropriate for your audience.
- Rough draft: handwritten in comp book (*first draft of essay must be complete; minimum of five pages*) due on **Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**.
- Final draft due on **Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**.

Your final draft may be either typed OR handwritten

If typed: 1 ½ to 4 pages double spaced, size 12 font, black ink only, Times New Roman font, one inch margins

If handwritten: 3 to 8 pages double spaced, cursive

**Extra Credit Opportunity:** On the assignment due date, extra credit will be given to students who read their personal narrative essays out loud to the class. This is completely optional, but consider sharing your story with the class.

Have fun writing and be creative! I can't wait to read about the adventures you have had!