

The Widow's Broom
**Personification Personal
Narrative Assignment**
Making Our Own Stories...Come to Life!

Name of Writer: _____

Hour # _____

Date Assignment is Due: _____

Goals:

- 1.) Understand the word "personification"
- 2.) Develop a personal narrative story with a clear beginning, middle, and end.

Personification Personal Narrative Assignment

Assignment Summary: In *The Widow's Broom* by Chris Van Allsburg, a broom comes life in a magical story. We do not live in magical worlds, but imagine if we did? Your assignment is to tell a story from **your life**-any story-and add a twist. Some object in your story must come to life! You are the master storyteller. You can change the story's outcome. Your story must have a clear beginning, middle, and end.

Writer's Purpose: Your purpose is to entertain your readers.

Writer's Role: You will write as yourself from your point of view.

Audience: Your peers and teacher

Form: This will be a 3 paragraph narrative story that must include a complete beginning, middle and end. Again, some object must come to life in your story.

Three Focus Correction Areas:

1. 3 Paragraphs-Beginning, Middle, and End (15)
2. Object comes to life (5)
3. Complete sentences

Procedures:

STEPS TO WRITING A PERSONIFICATION PERSONAL NARRATIVE ASSIGNMENT

1. Review personification. Read *The Widow's Broom* by Chris Van Allsburg.
2. Brainstorm ideas for your story.
3. Pre-write a plan for your story (Beginning, Middle, End, Object)
4. Review how to make interesting leads and attention grabbers.
5. Draft the beginning paragraph of your story.
6. Draft the middle paragraph of your story.
7. Draft the end paragraph of your story.
8. Participate in a peer review of your story.
9. Check for spelling, punctuation, and complete sentences.
10. Submit your personal narrative assignment.

Personification Review and Examples



Memory Mining: Story Idea Brainstorming

Goal: Dig up some great memories for a story idea!

<p><u>Memories about People</u></p> <p>ex.) My grandma loves to bake.</p> <p>1.) _____ _____</p> <p>2.) _____ _____</p> <p>3.) _____ _____</p>	<p><u>Memories about Events</u></p> <p>ex.) Getting a black belt in karate.</p> <p>1.) _____ _____</p> <p>2.) _____ _____</p> <p>3.) _____ _____</p>	<p><u>Memories of Happy Times :)</u></p> <p>ex.) Catching the winning touchdown pass.</p> <p>1.) _____ _____</p> <p>2.) _____ _____</p> <p>3.) _____ _____</p>
<p><u>Memories of Unhappy Times :(</u></p> <p>ex.) Breaking your arm during summer break.</p> <p>1.) _____ _____</p> <p>2.) _____ _____</p> <p>3.) _____ _____</p>	<p><u>Memories of Accomplishments</u></p> <p>ex.) Winning an award</p> <p>1.) _____ _____</p> <p>2.) _____ _____</p> <p>3.) _____ _____</p>	<p><u>Memories of Times and Places</u></p> <p>ex.) Seeing the sunrise at the beach</p> <p>1.) _____ _____</p> <p>2.) _____ _____</p> <p>3.) _____ _____</p>

I will write about: _____

Topic Brainstorming Page

Complete a mindmap or list on this page that defines the topic you've chosen. Include things like, setting, conflict, characters, resolution, etc. You may use illustrations as well.

Pre-Writing and Putting Things in Order

Directions: Use this page to write out a clear beginning, middle, and end to your story. Use boxes to show what will happen first, second, and so on.



How Do I Start My Story? With a Hook!

After listening to a few mentor texts that have great first lines, please complete the worksheet below.

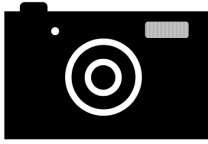
1. **Sounds or Noises: Begin your essay with noises or sounds associated with your topic.**
 - a. **Example:** *Ssssss. I love the sound of onions sautéing in the pan.*
 - b. **Your example:**

2. **Dialogue: Start with a person talking right at the outset.**
 - a. **Example:** *"I don't believe you learned that whole routine that quickly," laughed my coach.*
 - b. **Your example:**

3. **Action: Open in the middle of something happening. Get right to the action.**
 - a. **Example:** *I toed the starting line. I breathed deeply and tensed my legs, dreading the crack of the starter's pistol.*
 - b. **Your example:**

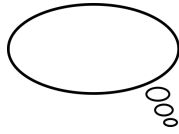
4. **Setting Description: Lead with a description of a place or time relevant to your topic.**
 - a. **Example:** *There were mirrors on three walls in the studio. There were skylights overhead, so the light was almost blinding. My first dance lesson would surely be a memorable experience.*
 - b. **Your example:**

The type of hook I will use with my story is: _____



How to Add a Snapshot to Your Writing

Directions: A snapshot helps you add detail to your writing. We are going to work on adding snapshots of our objects that come to life. Choose a character in your story or the setting and write about it with as much detail as possible.



How to Add a Thoughtshot

Directions: Thoughtshots add detail and voice to your writing. We are going to practice adding thoughts to our writing in reaction to the object coming to life. Choose one place in your story where the character is going to think to themselves or have a conversation with another character.

