

## Paper 5: Narrative Argumentation

### Introduction:

In your experiences as writers, you have probably been asked to write about something memorable that happened to you, something that impacted you, or someone/something/somewhere who/that meant something significant to you. These assignments had, at their core, a reliance on *narrative voice*, but what did they ultimately achieve or argue? In academic, purpose-driven writing, narrative can be a powerful tool when carefully wielded – many cultures (including United States cultures) use narrative to record history, create personal connections, and establish hierarchies among members of a community. In academic writing, writers use narrative to establish a connection with the audience or to communicate strong relationships with their research and their arguments. That academic writing rejects narrative entirely is a common misconception – as you will see in some of the academic writing we will read for this paper, this is not universally true. Even in academic writing which is not consciously “narrative” in nature, a “story” can often be found within the language of academic texts. Narrative can be a valuable tool for writers in all disciplines, and this assignment will allow you to experiment with narrative in order to communicate an argument of your own creation.

### Topic/Argument:

For this assignment, *what* you argue and *why* you argue it is up to you, as long as *how* you argue it includes narrative. Your argument could be social – “we must change this in order to accomplish this” – or it could be philosophical – “*this* idea is false (or true)!” You could speak from a specific academic discipline’s perspective, or you could analyze something more personal. To get yourself started, consider what causes/ideas/people/things are most important to you. Then, consider *why* this/those thing(s) became important to you in the first place – what experiences, thoughts, or actions led you to be passionate about your argument, and what can your unique perspective lend to your argument to give it support and engage your audience? You might also consider the role of reflection or narrative writing *on writing itself*. What have you learned about yourself as a writer, or about yourself in general, this semester? How can your discoveries about yourself (academically, socially, individually) contribute to an argument about the world in which we live?

### Requirements:

Your final paper must:

- total 3-4 pages of double-spaced, polished prose in MLA format (1-inch margins, Times New Roman 12-pt. font)
- experiment with and utilize narration to introduce, support, and/or explain an argument
- argue a point / present a purpose to the reader
- adhere to MLA guidelines when quoting and/or referencing other writers

### Evaluation Guidelines:

Effective papers will use personal experience in the form of narrative to introduce, explain, or support an argument of the writer’s choosing. These papers will use creative language to create emotional and ethical appeals to the audience (ethos and pathos), and will use specific support in the form of observation or research to create logical appeals for the audience (logos). Effective arguments will be organically connected to the narrative using the writer’s specific style/tone of prose and will not be immediately obvious (or ludicrous) to the reader. These arguments will be explained in an organized way which guides the reader through the narrative and argument using paragraphs and varied sentence structures. Effective papers will illustrate correct and appropriate use of language, be it Standard English or another form of English (though if straying from Standard English, the writer should be sure to have a rhetorical reason to do so).

### Due Dates:

Monday 4/11: Rough Draft (at least two pages) on Googledocs and CTools forum 5

Wednesday 4/13: Two Peer Reviews (for full-class workshop) and bring a FULL DRAFT to class

Monday 4/18: Two Peer Reviews in Googledocs and CTools Forum 6 if you haven’t done 5 already

Wednesday 4/20 by noon OR EARLIER: Final draft of paper 5 and **final course reflection (this is “Response 5”)**

\*\*Along with your final draft of paper 5, please submit a 1 ½ - 2 page reflection on your writing progress and transformation in this class. This will count as part of your homework grade and you will get the points so long as it is submitted and is thoughtfully written. You can discuss anything related to your learning and writing in this reflection – it is your chance to look back on and synthesize concepts from the semester and consider how you might pull those ideas and strategies into your future college writing.