

# Personal Narrative

Attention-grabbing opening

Details that set the scene

Event 1

Details (sensory details)

Details (sensory details)

Event 2

Details (sensory details)

Details (thoughts and feelings)

Event 3

Details (sensory details)

## Catch of the Day

One Saturday last spring, my friend Kazutaka called me at dawn. "It's a beautiful day!" he said. "Get out of bed early for once, and let's go fishing." His plan called for a trip to Catherine Creek, a great trout stream just outside of town. People come from far away to catch rainbow trout in the rippling waters of Catherine Creek, but luckily Kaz and I live just a short bicycle ride away.

A light rain stung our faces as we pedaled along the narrow country road toward our favorite fishing spot. By the time we got there the rain had stopped, but the sky was still a threatening shade of gray. We walked our bikes to the edge of the creek and saw that we were all alone. The only sound we could hear besides the running water was the distant cawing of a crow.

The peaceful mood was ruined, though, when we took a look around us. Three or four people had recently had a picnic at our fishing spot and had left their trash on the ground—cans, bottles, napkins, orange peels. It was an ugly sight. Disgusted, we put down our fishing poles and began to pick up the trash, stuffing it into the plastic bag Kazutaka had brought for trout. Fortunately, Kaz is an optimist, so it was an enormous bag.

No sooner had we picked up the very last crumpled napkin than Kaz pointed downstream. Beneath a large willow tree there was another hideous heap of garbage. When we walked over to pick that

## Personal Narrative *continued*

Details (what others said)

Event 4

Details (sensory details)

Details (what others said)

Meaning of experience

up, I spotted a plastic ice chest someone had thrown away. "It'll make a good garbage can," Kaz said. "I can strap it on the back of my bike."

And so it went. We spent more than six hours picking up trash along the creek, all the way to Montour Falls. By afternoon the sun was shining, and we almost started to enjoy ourselves. As we left, loaded down with other people's trash, we saw a tall man with gray hair standing near a car with out-of-state license plates. He waved to us, and when we waved back he shouted, "Beautiful creek you've got here!" That remark alone made us feel that all our hot, muscle-straining work had been worthwhile.

# Personal Narrative

## Definition

A **personal narrative** tells the story of an experience that took place in one person's life. It usually focuses on the details associated with the experience, as well as the author's thoughts and feelings about the experience.

Many personal narratives use the structure illustrated in the framework below. Print this framework and use it as a guide when you write your own personal narrative.

## Framework

## Directions and Explanations

