



The Lantern English Co.  
The Beginning Writer

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## **The Narrative – Syllabus**

**Course Description:** Narrative writing is all about telling a story: whether fictional or non-fictional. This course will introduce students to the basic elements of a good narrative and offer engaging practice for narrative writing. After learning about narrative elements, students will use their skills to construct personal and fictional narratives. Students in this class should be generally comfortable with writing three-paragraph compositions.

### **Course Outline:**

**Week One:** What Is a Narrative?

**Week Two:** Chronological Order

**Week Three:** Start at the Beginning

**Week Four:** In the Middle

**Week Five:** Happily Ever After

**Week Six:** Telling Your Stories

**Week Seven:** Problem & Solution

**Week Eight:** The Moral of the Story

**Grading Information:** All assignment grades for this course will be graded using *The Beginning Writer Rubric* and averaged to receive a final course grade.



## **The Narrative**

### **Lesson Two: Chronological Order**

#### **SAMPLE LESSON**

When we tell a story, we follow something called ***chronological order***.

This means that we give details in the order that they happened.

If you read any story, be it fiction or nonfiction, you will see that chronological order is used. Let us study an example:

Today was my birthday. When I woke up, my mom made me a very special breakfast of strawberry crepes, fruit, and juice. After breakfast, Mom took my siblings and me to the park to play. At lunch time, we all met Dad at my favorite restaurant, The Station. After we had finished lunch and said our goodbyes to Dad, Mom took us home to play games. Later on, Dad came home and we grilled chicken, potatoes, and corn on the cob for dinner. Then, we ate a delicious chocolate cake that Mom made, and I got to open a few presents. I really enjoyed my birthday.

The details in this story are given in the order that they happened. It would be very difficult to follow this story if the author first told you what happened at lunch time, then what happened at breakfast time, then what happened after lunch. If the author did not tell the details in chronological order, the story might look something like this:

Today was my birthday. Then, we ate a delicious chocolate cake that Mom made, and I got to open a few presents. When I woke up, my mom made me a very special breakfast of strawberry crepes, fruit, and juice. After we had finished lunch and said our goodbyes to Dad, Mom took us home to play games. After breakfast, Mom took my siblings and me to the park to play. At lunch time, we all met Dad at my favorite restaurant, The Station. Later on, Dad came home and we grilled chicken, potatoes, and corn on the cob for dinner. I really enjoyed my birthday.

The previous paragraph does not make much sense, does it? In order for a story to make sense, you have to use chronological order. **You have to start from the beginning.** When we tell a story, we want to tell things in the order that they actually happened.

**Assignment 2A:** Write a narrative paragraph (4+ sentences) about what you did yesterday, ensuring that you use chronological order. Tell the details in the exact order that they happened. Use transition words like *first, then, next, after, afterwards, later on, or finally* to help connect the supporting details.

**Format the paragraph properly.** Write your name and the date in the upper left-hand corner. Give the story a title, centered above the story. Write one sentence after the other, indent the first line of each paragraph, and left-align the text. Justified text is optional but not required.

**Assignment 2B:** Write a narrative paragraph (4+ sentences), telling about "the first time I . . ." Make sure that you tell the details in chronological order.

**Format the paragraph properly.** Write your name and the date in the upper left-hand corner. Give the story a title, centered above the story. Write one sentence after the other, indent the first line of each paragraph, and left-align the text. Justified text is optional but not required.