

Unit 1: Personal Narrative

In this unit we will look at the art of the personal narrative essay. How do we turn our experiences into stories? What makes them compelling? Why are they important to share? We'll read personal narratives by (subject to change) David Sedaris, Annie Dillard, and Maya Angelou, and we'll come together as a community of writers to learn with and from one another. Over four two week cycles, you will complete three Personal Writings and one major revision.

Class time will include:

- mini-lessons on skills
- in class writing time/one-on-one conferences with Ms. Brody
- reading & discussing published stories
- group sharing and feedback sessions

Skills we will practice include

- Clarifying the focus of a story
- Unpacking narrative / bringing it into the moment
- Shaping and structuring
- Using language that is vivid and specific
- Using clear and powerful syntax: avoiding run-ons and overpacked sentences
- Formatting dialogue correctly

Due dates are:

A Block

Personal Writing #1: 1/26

Personal Writing #2: 2/9

Personal Writing #3: 3/2

Revision/development: 3/16

F Block

Personal Writing #1: 1/27

Personal Writing #2: 2/10

Personal Writing #3: 3/3

Revision/development: 3/17