



Personal Narrative Sample Paper

Name _____ Date _____

The title lets the reader know what the story is about.

My First Talent Show

To set the scene, the writer includes details about where the story took place.

Standing backstage, I could feel my heart thumping in my chest. “Just relax,” my friend Jenny whispered. “You’re ready for this.” I nodded. Jenny was right. I’d been practicing my song for the school talent show for six weeks. Still, picturing an audience packed with kids, parents and teachers made me want to run out the door.

In the introduction, the writer describes what happened first.

“Too late for that,” I thought, as Mr. Peterson announced my song. Jenny gave me a nudge, and suddenly I was on the stage. Standing in the spotlight, I grasped the microphone and belted out the lyrics. I heard my voice pour through the speakers and fill the room. “It’s going well,” I thought to myself. “Don’t mess up.”

The writer includes details about what he or she was thinking.

The writer includes details about what he or she saw, heard, smelled or felt.

I looked out at the sea of faces. The auditorium was dark, but I could see hundreds of eyes staring back at me. The smell of candy bars and popcorn filled the room. “I hope Jenny is saving some for me,” I thought, as I started the chorus one last time.

The writer describes what happened next.

The writer includes a detail that shows how he or she felt about this experience in the end.

As I finished the song, the audience began to clap. “Yeah, Katie!” one kid yelled. “You rock!” screeched another. I took a bow and walked offstage with a smile plastered across my face. “How many days until next year’s talent show?” I asked Jenny.

In the conclusion, the writer describes what happened last.