

Narrative Essay

Preliminary exercise (due in Ses #5):

Describe the kernel and motive for the narrative essay due next week. The “kernel” is the image, event, or individual that forms the starting point or seed of your narrative essay. The “motive” is the question or insight that you want to get at in your essay—the idea that drives the essay forward. Remember—this idea need not take the form of an argument. A narrative often generates more questions than answers. You should write at least two sentences about each element, but you should feel free to write much more. If you have any questions about how you might build upon these basic elements, feel free to include those questions in your exercise. I will respond to everything that you write.

First version of completed essay (due in Ses #6):

Write a five-page narrative essay focused on an event, individual, or image that profoundly influenced your thoughts about medicine or about health issues. By the time you begin writing this essay, you will have a half dozen examples to consider. Review the essays and stories that we have read for the last three classes. Perhaps one of them will provide a model for the essay you wish to write. While you should incorporate a significant narrative element, you may decide for yourself how much of the essay should be devoted to direct exploration of your central idea. Remember, however, that your reader may respond more readily to being shown your thought process than to being told how to think. **Bring four copies to class. Include a brief status report that will help your workshop partners provide useful comments.**

Final version of essay due in Ses #8 at start of class.