

## **In-Class Narrative Writing Assignment**

### **Remember that a narrative story:**

- \* is written in the first person point-of-view
- \* has a plot (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution)
- \* has at least one character (you— the one telling the story) but there could be more
- \* has a theme or life lesson (what you learned or what you understand now)

Write a narrative story about one of the items from your heart map. There's a catch, though— The planning AND the writing will all take place in class today. Let's see what you can do in less than an hour!

### **Is this a timed writing?**

Well, yes. There are many times in life that you have to sit down and focus and get something done in a specific amount of time: the SAT test, an online defensive driving test, certain games you might play, etc.

### **But how can I make it really good with no mistakes if I only have so much time?**

You won't make it perfect with no mistakes. That's not the point today. Today is about seeing how much you can get done in a set amount of time. That's why I'm not grading you on things you don't have time to go back and correct. See? You don't have to worry about making it perfect. It's a rough draft. It's not going to be perfect, and that's ok :)

### **So it's ok if I have a lot of mistakes as long as I have my story written?**

Yes! You'll have about 15 minutes for planning (filling out and using the planning sheet) and then you'll have about 25 minutes to write your story. You'll be surprised to see how having that planning sheet done will make the actual writing go so much easier!

**In Class Narrative Writing Assignment  
Planning Sheet  
(Time: 15 minutes)**

QUESTIONS FOR PLANNING YOUR STORY	A TEACHER'S EXAMPLE	YOUR OWN DETAILS FOR YOUR OWN STORY
After looking at my heart map, I want to write my narrative about ...?	<i>the time I played "forward" for my soccer team and we won our first game</i>	
As I think about the memory, I realize that the lesson I learned from it (theme) is... (But don't write about this part until the very end. For now, you're just thinking of where your story will go).	<i>don't give up on yourself because you have more strength and power than you might think</i>	
Important exposition details I want to include will be...	<i>indoor soccer field no AC that day :( Sat. night</i>	
Main events in the rising action...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- got lost- almost late</li> <li>- mean kid from the other team</li> <li>- best player was out sick</li> <li>- I never played forward before</li> <li>- my own teammates didn't think I could do it</li> <li>- I missed all three shots I took</li> </ul>	
Climax / turning point of my experience...	<i>- with the game tied and only 20 seconds left, I had to try one last time to make the shot</i>	
1 - 2 things that happened right after the turning point (the falling action)...	<i>- I went for it and made the goal</i>	
The resolution of the story...	<i>- we actually won the game- just barely, but we did win!</i>	
Now I can write about what I learned, or what I realize now about that experience.	<i>I doubted myself, and my own team even doubted me, but I fought for it and kept trying and I did more than I thought I could do!</i>	
Think of a title for your narrative that has something to do with the theme / life lesson of the story.	<i>Keep Kicking Don't Stop Get It Get It Just Do It</i>	

**Now, begin writing your personal narrative using the planning sheet to guide you! (25 minutes)**