

**The Autobiographical Narrative:** The autobiographical narrative is a story about the self. Usually the subject is an important or key event within the writer's childhood or adolescence.

As with all writing, the parts of a good autobiographical narrative are;

### **Introduction**

- An engaging opening: start by getting your reader's attention. use an intriguing quotation or a surprising statement, or put your readers in the middle of a dramatic situation
- Background information: supply background information if it will help your readers understand the context of your narrative
- Hint of meaning: end the paragraph by providing readers with a hint as to the significance or importance of the experience.

### **Body**

- First event of experience: begin your narrative with the first event in the sequence of events that makes up your experience
- People details: describe the appearances of characters in your narrative so that readers can form mental images of those characters
- Sensory details: use sensory details to allow readers to see, hear, feel, taste and smell characters, scenes, and actions
- Feelings: reveal your thoughts and feelings about events and characters as you narrate your experience
- Dialogue: use dialogue--the actual words of the people--to give the characters in your narrative personality
- Second event (new paragraph/section of the essay): continue to describe events in the order in which they happened
- Specific action with sensory details: use language that appeals to all five senses to bring people, places, and actions to life
- Final event: describe the final event in your story. Often, the final event is the climactic event.
- Specific movements: continue to describe the specific movements and gestures of characters to bring them to life for the readers
- Dialogue: keep using people's own words to make your story come alive. Try to make the dialogue as real, natural, and truthful as possible.
- Interior monologue: the conversation you're having in your head as these events unfold. The interior monologue is an effective way to reveal your thoughts and feelings.

### **Conclusion**

- A look back from the present: reflect on the experience and consider its meaning
- Significance of the experience: end the essay by letting your readers know the meaning of the experience--what you learned from it or how it changed you.