

Memoirs

A memoir is a type of autobiographical expression in which the narrator describes a significant event.

INTRODUCTION

- The introduction to your memoir should grab the reader's attention by using a narrative lead
- The story starts in the middle of the action.
- Setting, characters, and conflict should be revealed in the beginning.



Introduction to Narrative Leads...

- The lead should describe an interesting action or thought.
- The lead establishes the direction your writing will take.
- A good lead grabs the reader's attention and refuses to let go.



Narrative Leads

- **Action:** A main character is doing something interesting.
- **Dialogue:** A character or characters are speaking.
- **Reaction:** A character is thinking.
- **Hook:** An alarming detail that will grab any reader's attention
- **Incident:** The narrator implies that an unpleasant event has occurred.
- **Character:** The narrator inserts curiosity about a character.

Narrative Lead: Action

- I gulped my milk, pushed away from the table, and bolted out of the kitchen, slamming the broken screen door behind me. I ran to our dock as fast as my legs could carry me. My feet pounded on the old wood, hurrying me toward my dad's voice. "Ryan!" he bellowed again.

Narrative Lead: Dialogue

“Ryan! Get down here on the double!”
Dad bellowed. His voice sounded far away.

“Dad?” I hollered. “Where are you?” I squinted through the screen door but couldn’t see him.

“I’m down on the dock. MOVE IT. You’re not going to believe this,” he replied.

Narrative Lead: Reaction

- I couldn't imagine why my father was hollering for me at 7:00 in the morning. I thought fast about what I might have done to get him so riled. Had he found out about the way I talked to my mother the night before when we got to camp and she asked me to help unpack the car? Did he discover the fishing reel I broke last week? Before I could consider a third possibility, Dad's voice shattered my thoughts.

Narrative Lead: Hook

- My name is Francis Joseph Tremenari and I have just returned to Philadelphia. The war is over and I have lost half of my face.

Narrative Lead: Incident

- This is a story I would rather not tell. It is a stick caught in my throat, gagging me, choking its way up, and now I'm stuck with it. I don't want to tell it, but Hirsch says I must, and Hirsch is my doctor. He says there is healing in telling, telling even the worst. But what he doesn't understand is that I don't want to get well. So, there, now I've said it.

Narrative Lead: Character

- The year started out pretty smooth. Probably would have ended up that way, too, if Becky had stayed around or if I hadn't quit the football team and made myself look like the jerk of the century, though I still say quitting was the only thing I could do, and I wouldn't change that.