

Narrative Template Ideas for Generating Tasks

Design a writing task using any of the options within each part as you see fit.

Part 1: Focus the Task

- Complete this template: “After reading ____ (name the specific text) by ____ (author) . . .”
- Complete this template: “After conducting research on ____ (name the topic) . . .”
- Include a guiding question.

Part 2: Identify the Writing Task

- Write (or rewrite) a/an ____ (specific genre, sequel, alternate ending, or specific text) . . .
- From the point of view or perspective of ____ (a different character or narrator) . . .
- Using ____ (the author’s writing style, specific literary device, or type of figurative language) . . .
- With a different ____ (tone, setting, purpose, central conflict, or other) than the author’s . . .
- About . . . ; based on . . . ; that shows . . .

Part 3: Emphasize Something Important

- Use this ____ (checklist or rubric) to guide you while writing.
- Include a works cited document for research you conduct for your ____ (historical fiction, biography, or other).
- Create illustrations, graphics, or visuals to enhance your narrative.
- Organize your events in a logical sequence.
- Be sure to include the characteristic elements of ____ (genre).
- Include figurative language that compels readers to visualize and deepen their understanding.
- Use (or incorporate) literary devices and figurative language ____ (name the specific types) to enhance your work.

Narrative Writing Prompt Examples

Realistic Fiction

Rewrite a classic piece of literature into contemporary realistic fiction. Make it relatable to today by modernizing the characters, setting, and events. Incorporate allusion, dialect, suspense, and figurative language to enhance your work. Use the writing checklist or rubric to guide you as you write.

Write a realistic story of survival from first- or third-person point of view. Include the characteristic elements of this genre and rely on the literary device of suspense among others you choose to use. The central conflict can focus on an internal (protagonist against self) or external (protagonist against nature, society, or other) conflict, but be sure it qualifies as realistic fiction.

After reading Kurt Vonnegut's (2014) "Harrison Bergeron," write a story with new characters and a situation in which people receive handicaps for areas of talent different from what the author features. You can invent a futuristic setting as Vonnegut does to produce science fiction or fantasy, or rewrite yours as realistic fiction.

Historical Fiction

After conducting research on WWII (or another war), write a historical fiction piece based on factual details of the time period. Create an authentic plotline, characters, settings, and dialogue that demonstrate your understanding of the opposing forces and their beliefs; the political, social, and economic climate; and the events of WWII. You may invent fictionalized characters as long as they stay true to the historical setting. Use the rubric to guide your writing so you are clear about the criteria.

How did the debate between Jefferson and Hamilton influence the political system of the United States? Write a historical fiction piece focused on differing sides of the issues involving the Constitution that divided Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, and their political allies during the Washington administration. In your narrative, respond to the guiding question and include the personal and political philosophies of key characters. You may write from the point of view of a "Jeffersonian" or "Hamiltonian" or effectively change points of view.

After reading *A Christmas Carol*, write a historical fiction piece in which you reveal the societal, economic, and political aspects of the historical era. Within your story, show the influence of the era on the setting, characters, and events.

After reading Roald Dahl's story "The Landlady," write a new ending mimicking the author's style and tone.

Science Fiction

Read informational texts about various habitats and the species that thrive within them. Then write a narrative from the point of view of a scientist, government official, concerned citizen, or organism within a habitat that recognizes an imbalance in an ecosystem and works to solve it. In your plotline: (1) present a disturbance that disrupts the preexisting balance of a population of species in the habitat and (2) revolve it around restoring balance or the effects of permanent destruction. Your story should show your knowledge of the habitat, species that live there, and a solution or the effects of the disturbance.

What dire situation in a future society can result from the lack of attention to a current-day scientific problem? Write a science fiction story that highlights the cause and effect of ignoring scientific facts around an issue you choose. Base your story on researched evidence and use effective narrative techniques and description. Include a works cited document that shows the sources you use to write factually about this potential problem.

<p>After reading “All Summer in a Day” by Ray Bradbury, write a sequel from the point of view of the young girl in the closet. Include a complete story arc and begin the plot from where Bradbury’s story ended.</p>
<p>Myth</p>
<p>Write a nature or creation myth that explains why something in nature came to be, such as seasonal changes, animal characteristics, earth formations, or constellations. Organize your events in a logical sequence, use narrative techniques, and include the characteristic elements of a myth.</p>
<p>After reading several Greek myths, invent one of your own that explains a natural phenomenon or land formation. Feature Greek gods and goddesses interacting with one another to demonstrate your understanding of their power, personality traits, and relationships. Be sure to apply the characteristic elements of myths, as well as narrative techniques and figurative language to make your story engaging. Feel free to include illustrations to accompany your myth.</p>
<p>Nonfiction Narrative</p>
<p>After reading and discussing Robert Frost’s poem “The Road Not Taken,” write a personal narrative or memoir about a time you chose an alternate path. Stylistically and creatively address these and other questions in your narrative: What path did you choose? What were the consequences? Did you regret or accept your decision? Use literary devices and figurative language to enhance your work.</p>
<p>After reading <i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time</i> by Mark Haddon (2003), write a realistic fiction, personal narrative, or memoir in first-person point of view from the perspective of an individual with a disability. In your work, reveal his or her thoughts, feelings, emotions, and struggles. Infuse your writing with meaningful figurative language that fosters emotional responses. Readers should glean an appropriate tone from your work.</p>
<p><i>How does the way you handle adversity or a difficult situation reveal something important about you?</i> Write a personal narrative or memoir based on this guiding question. Include figurative language that compels readers to visualize and deepen their understanding of your experience.</p>

Figure 2.1 Narrative template for generating tasks and examples.