

Narrative Essay

1. Format: [350 - 500 word count]

*1 Hook / opening [short]:

- Drop reader into a moment [action, dialogue, or sensory image].
- Avoid: "One day, I..."

*2 Build-up:

- Set scene, introduce characters / conflict, use foreshadowing to build tension
↳ drop subtle hints, clues / warning abt the event.

*3 climax:

- turning point & main event: slow down here with more sensory / emotive detail

*4 Falling action / resolution:

- How the conflict resolves; character's reaction

*5 Ending / Reflection:

- short closing: can circle back to opening image / state a takeaway (lesson / realisation) - don't over-explain the "moral".

2. Likely topics / themes:

*1 An unexpected / frightening event:

Accident, getting lost, natural event, encounter with a stranger.

*2 Helping someone / being helped:

community service, act of kindness, stranger who helped

*3 A mistake & its consequence:

Lie, poor decision, misjudging someone / something

*4 Facing a challenge / fear

competition, exam, physical challenges, public performance

*5 A memorable family / friendship moment:

celebration, reconciliation after conflict, loss / change in relationship.

*6 Achieving / failing to achieve a goal:

Result day, competition outcome, disappointment turned into a lesson.

*7 A day that didn't go as planned

*8 Technology / environment - linked incident:

used as narrative backdrop, e.g. device malfunctioning, a discovery

3. Phrases / Idea Bank by Theme:

*1 Unexpected / Frightening event:

- Build tension: "Screech of brakes", "a chill went down her spine",
"my heart hammered against my ribs".
- Resolution relief: "a wave of relief washed over me", "my legs turned to jelly".

*2 Helping / being helped:

- Initial misjudgement → twist: "I instantly associated him with..."
→ "he turned out to be..."
- Theme phrase: "don't judge a book by its cover", "kindness coats nothing".

*3 Mistakes & consequences:

- Guilt vocab: "guilt-ridden", "reapproached myself", "a wave of guilt swept over me".
- Realisation: "it dawned on me that...", "too late, I realised..."

→



*4 Facing a challenge / Fear:

- Nerve: "my palms were clammy", "my stomach churned",
"I took a deep breath &..."
- Triumph / growth: "for the first time, I felt...", "I walked away
taller than when I arrived"

*5 Family / Friendship moment:

- Warmth: "he placed his hand on my shoulder", "I have never heard
her speak so gently before".
- Tension → resolution: "the silence between us was heavier than
any words", "we finally understood each
other".

*6 Achieving / Failing a goal:

- Anticipation: "my heart was in my mouth", "each second felt like
an eternity"
- Disappointment softened: "it will be alright", "we know you tried
your best".

*7 Unplanned day:

- Contrast structure: start with expectation ["I had it all planned
out..."] → disruption → new outcome

*8 Technology / environment incident:

- keep description grounded in senses [sight / sound] rather than
technical jargon
↳ specialised words & expressions