

# THE NARRATIVE PARAGRAPH

CHOOSING A NARRATE TOPIC  
(PREWRITING)

THE B.M.E. MODEL

Source: In the Write Direction by Dr. Sharmane C. Miller

CHOICES

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Before you begin writing a narrative paragraph or essay, search for a topic to write about. The easiest way to do this is to look for a topic that interests you. You will usually be assigned a general topic from which you can choose to write about a true or a made up experience.



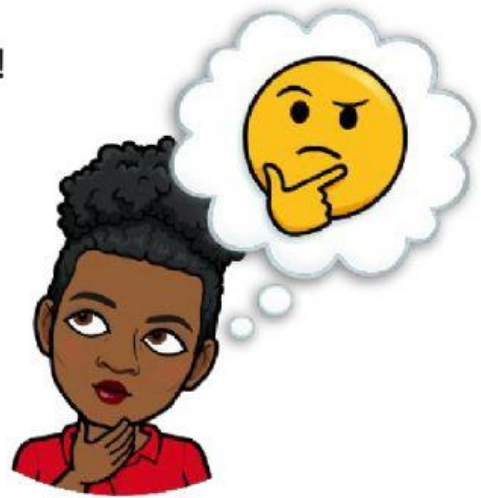
Once you have a general topic, all you need to do is narrow it down. One strategy to help you do this is to use a **topic chart**. The sample topic chart below lists three specific experiences in the first column, and a sequence of related events are listed in the second column.



An Unforgettable Day	Details
My bicycle accident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Met friends in the park</li><li>▪ Rode into a busy area</li><li>▪ Fell in the road &amp; was injured</li></ul>
✓ The day I caught a shark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Rode in a boat to the ocean with dad</li><li>▪ Dove 200 ft deep without any gear</li><li>▪ Caught my first shark with a spare</li></ul>
Winning a competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Performed my talent</li><li>▪ Finalists called to the stage</li><li>▪ Winners announced &amp; awards given</li></ul>

After reviewing the ideas listed, the next step would be to choose the one that interests you the most. In the above example, a check mark is placed next to the one a writer selects.

NOW, IT IS YOUR TURN!



**Instructions:** Create a topic chart to show 3 eventful days that you may have had. Be sure to list 3 details for each. Then put a check mark next to the one that interests you most.

An Unforgettable Day		Details
<input type="checkbox"/>		1. 2. 3.
<input type="checkbox"/>		1. 2. 3.
<input type="checkbox"/>		1. 2. 3.