**Personal Narrative 1st Draft Guide**

Directions: Use document as a guide for writing your Personal Narrative Draft #1. Keep in mind, that these are ingredients for your Personal Narrative. Decisions on creativity and depth are up to **you**!

**1. Narrative Opening (“hook”).** *Please refer to the Narrative Opening handout from class*

Choose a way to hook readers into your story. You may use one or more of the following techniques that we learned in class:

* Setting
  + How does this place smell? look? sound? feel?
* Character
  + What do the characters look like? What actions do they do that show their personalities?
* Dialogue/Scene
  + Plop readers down into a scene. Who’s talking? What’s happening? What are you thinking?

**2. Setting/ Exposition**

* Where are you at the beginning of your story?
* What time of day is it?
* What’s happening at the very beginning?
* What kind of person are you before you learned from the lesson in your theme?

**3. Rising Action & Main Conflict**

Connection to theme: Throughout these descriptions, be sure to include: How are you reacting to each of these event? What are you thinking inside your head?

* What happens first?
* What happens next?
* What happens after that?
* What happens right before the climax?
* Did you make sure to explain the main conflict or problem? Remember, your main conflict could be an *internal* conflict where you experience a struggle with yourself—anxiety, anger, disappointment, shyness, feeling like giving up, etc.

**4. Climax**

* When is the story most emotionally intense?
* What is the moment that you realize that you are learning the lesson (theme) of your story?

**5. Falling Action/ Resolution**

* What were you doing after the climax?
* What are your reflections on the event?