**Why Do We Write Historical Narratives? –** To recreate a significant event or experience from the past by turning the ***facts*** into a ***story****.*

**Thinking about Purpose and Audience –** Your ***purpose*** (objective) is to explain the cause(s) or examine the effect(s) of a specific event in the life of an American author and how it has impacted American literature**.** Your ***audience*** is your classmates and the question is how much do they know about your author and how much information will you need to give your reader for your story to meet your objective?

**Generating Ideas – Who, Where, When, How, and Why –** Look for lots of particular details, both **visually and auditory**. “Just take a period…Then try to remember it so clearly that you can see things: what colors and how warm or cold and how you got there…It is important to tell what people looked like, how they walked, what they wore, what they ate” (John Steinbeck). You also want your readers to know *why* you’re telling this particular story. The details in your narrative will help make your point. Your title may offer a suggestion for why you are telling your story, also.

**Organizing and Drafting a Narrative**

1. Stating your Point – what effect did your author’s experiences (influences, inspirations) have on his/her style, works, successes, failures, etc. This is your thesis sentence – it will be stated in your narrative explicitly.
2. Template – see next page
3. Following Chronological Order – as a general rule, arrange events chronologically so your reader doesn’t have to figure out what happened when. Sometimes you may need to shift out of chronological order altogether (It’s called a **flashback** if you shift back in time, a **flash-forward** if you shift into the future.)
4. Developing a Plot – events arranged chronologically need to be related in such a way that one leads directly to, or causes, another. Taken together, the events in your narrative should have a beginning, middle, and an end. Then your narrative will form a complete action: a plot.
   1. Introduce a conflict
   2. Build up the dramatic tension
   3. Reach a climax
   4. Release the tension
   5. Resolve the conflict
5. Adding Transitions – avoid becoming too predictable. Consider connecting words and phrases that provide smooth links from one event to another.
6. Using Appropriate Verb Tenses – Don’t shift tenses needlessly. When you do need to indicate that one action happened before another in time be sure to change verb tense) accordingly - and accurately.
7. Maintaining a Consistent Point of View – maintain a logical and consistent point of view. Don’t attribute perceptions to yourself or your narrator that are physically impossible. Is your narrator an observer and participant (“I” or “We”) or an observer (“He”, “She”, or “They”)?
8. Adding a Dialogue – Incorporating dialogue into your narrative captures another person’s motives and point of view, and adds interest and life. Don’t just tell the reader that your author is delusional, but let the author speak for him/herself to allow your reader to draw their own conclusion.

**Template for Drafting a Historical Narrative**

This template serves as a starting point:

* This is a story about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The time and place of my story are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_As the narrative opens, X is in the act of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* What happened next was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, followed by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* At this point, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The Climax of these events was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* When X understood what had happened, he/she said, “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
* The last thing that happened to X was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* My point in telling this story is to show that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Answer the following questions regarding your narrator:

1. What is the narrator's age, name, relationship to the author?

2. Why is the person telling the story?

3. What was he or she doing just before the event happened?

4. How does the person feel about the event? Was he or she on a particular side?

5. What significant lessons did the person learn from the experience? How did this event change the literary world? This will be important in writing the ending to your narrative.

6. What has happened to the narrator since the event took place?

MLA Citation: *Back to the Lake: A Reader and Guide, High School Edition*. W.W. Norton & Company, Inc. New York. 2015. Print.

**Graded parts of the research unit:**

• Template

• Facts (minimum 15) found and used in paper

• Works Cited page

• Rough draft of historical fiction narrative

• Final draft of historical fiction narrative, works cited page, and submission to Turnitin.com.

**Due Dates and Other Important Information for this Project**

**Schedule (subject to change – subject to additional assignments due during this period)**

4/5 -Historical Narrative assignment distributed and explained, including how to write a narrative; rubric; brainstorm topics and narrators

4/6-8 - Homework: research and determine topic

4/6-8 - Lab -work on research and narrator planning worksheet

4/11 – Lab – Topic and Narrator due; Continue to find credible sources and take notes

4/12 – Lab - Template due; Begin drafting narrative

4/13 – 15 - Lab

4/19 - Lab - Submit rough draft; Unit 11 Vocabulary Quiz

4/19 – Peer Edit

4/20 – Black out Poem – Author due

4/21 – Black out Poem – Book due

4/22 – Submit Final Draft to turnitin.com by 8am - \*NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED\*

Source Requirements:

* Minimum of two credible sources from a database
* Minimum of one source from a book
* Minimum of one primary source
* Minimum of one periodical
* All others may be from any other credible source

• Description of setting (time and place)

• Dialogue between the narrator (protagonist) and another character

• Written in first-person perspective (see me if you want to use third-person)

• Follow a plot (inciting incident, rising action, conflict, climax, and resolution)• Typed/MLA Format