Martin 8th Language Arts

Neighborhood Narratives

For this essay assignment, you’ll rely on memories that occurred in a neighborhood where you grew up. Let’s get started…

1. Draw a map of Your ‘hood

* Using a pen/pencil/markers and a sheet of graph paper, draw a map of the neighborhood where you spent the most time growing up. We’ll take twenty to thirty minutes of class to do this. Be detailed; include streets, houses, trees, swing sets, and anything that would have been important to you when you were young. Remember to label items so that someone else would be able to read your map.

2. Number Five Locations Where Something Interesting Happened

* Think of five memories that occurred within the borders of your map and put a number label where each memory occurred: 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5. On the side or back of your map, write what memory each number represents. You’ll choose one of these memories to write about.

3. Share your map with a classmate

* Pair up with another student in class and show him or her your map. Point out the different objects you included (streets, houses, hideouts, etc.) and tell them what happened at your five numbered locations.

4. Choose a Memory to write about

* Pick one of the five locations you numbered to type an essay about.

Paper Requirements—

* 350 words, double-spaced
* Top line should include your name and the title (the title should be in quotes). Second line should be beginning of essay.

Schedule—

* Thu., Jan. 16—Discuss essay
* Tues., Jan. 21--- Ut. 16 spelling activitiesdue; Ut. 16 test; Ut. 17 assigned
* Wed., Jan. 22—Work on maps
* Thu., Jan. 23—Map due; Discuss introductions, conclusions, an outlining
* Fri., Jan. 24— Typing Neighborhood Narrative rough draft
* Mon., Jan. 27—Ut. 17 activities due; Spelling bee; Ut. 18 activities assigned
* Tue., Jan. 28—Type final copy of Snack Essay
* Wed., Jan. 29—Type rough draft of Neighborhood Narrative
* Thu., Jan. 30— Type rough draft of Neighborhood Narrative; due at end of period
* Fri., Jan. 31—Discuss researched argument assignment

Grading

* Map and pairshare—15 points
  + Detail and quality of map
* Rough draft—40 points
* Final copy—80 points
  + Organization (10/20pts)
    - Story told in logical order
    - Varied sentence structure
    - Effective use of transitions/tying together of events
    - Effective paragraphing
  + Focus (10/20pts)
    - Effective Introduction
    - Effective Conclusion
    - Includes other characters’ reactions
  + Elaboration (10/20pts)
    - Major episodes given proper detail + development
    - Descriptive, specific word choice
    - Use of figurative language present (alliteration, simile/metaphor, onomatopoeia, hyperbole—need 2 min.)
    - Writer’s personality present
    - Use of dialogue (need 3 quotes min.)
  + Conventions (10/20pts)
    - Proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling
    - Fulfills paper requirements

Everybody has been embarrassed

I’ve been embarrassed

many times

One time I was

really

embarrassed…