**Narration**

A narration tells a story, whether fiction or an event that really happened, in a purposeful sequence. A narration may be an entire essay, or it may be one element that helps develop a longer essay. You must take specific choices when writing a narrative:

**Point of View:** the angle from which the story is told  
 **Setting:** the time and place of the story  
 **Purpose:** the importance of this event

**Example**

An essay in response to the question “why did you decide to pursue a college education?” can narrate the day a young man went fishing with his father and, through their conversation on that day, decided a college education was worth pursuing. The essay could be structured in this way:

**Point of view:** first person  
**Setting:** the small fishing boat in the middle of a large lake on a sunny   
 afternoon  
**Purpose:** the intimacy and warmth of fishing together enabled the father to   
 reveal his pride in the thought of his son’s pursuing an education,   
 which, in turn, inspired the son

Obviously, the element of purpose is very important because it gives the narrative its importance. However, all the other elements help to control and focus the narrative. Really think about each element.

**Assignment**

Choose one of the options below:

1. Revise one of your essays, adding a narration as an element that helps develop that essay.
2. Write a narrative that centers around a character portrait of someone important to you. The point of view is not from this particular character, but from another’s (could be yours or it could be objective) so that the reader sees this person from an outside view. What are key elements about this person that make him or her important to you? How might the reader’s understanding of this character change and evolve as your narrative goes on?
3. Narrate a single moment and/or period in your life in which an important event and/or person caused you to have a significant insight about your character or the way your life was going at the time. Your narrative should move, then, through a vision you had of yourself and your life at the beginning of the story, one that is altered by the end. The focus is on you and what you learned about yourself through this event and/or person.