Methods of Development

Cause-Effect & Narration

Narration

- to tell a story with people, places and events
- The whole story works as <u>evidence</u> for an argumentative <u>thesis</u>
- Still be wary of fallacies, including:
  - Appeals to pity (a "sob story")
  - Hasty generalization (this happened to me this one time so it's true for everybody)
- Avoid these fallacies by **qualifying** your claims
  - Rely on more than just appeals to pathos to develop your story
  - E.g., instead of saying "<u>everyone</u> can relate to…" say "<u>many people</u> can relate to…"
  - E.g., instead of saying "<u>no one</u> likes…" say "<u>few people</u> like…"

Reading a Narrative Argument

- Identify the thesis of the piece (not always a clear thesis statement; may need to be inferred)
- Identify evidence for the thesis
  - There may be explicit points of evidence
  - The story as a whole may serve as evidence
- Read critically:
  - HOW or TO WHAT EXTENT does this story prove the thesis?
  - Are there claims made without sufficient evidence or development?

Writing a Narrative Argument

- Either clearly imply your thesis, or directly state it somewhere in the piece as a thesis statement.
- Have a clear beginning and end to your story
- Develop the story with engaging details that make the reader as interested as if it were an entertaining short story:
  - Use rich descriptive language
  - Use dialogue, where appropriate
- Evaluate your writing critically:
  - Does the story you tell actually serve as clear evidence for your thesis?
  - Did your story ramble anywhere?