**The Outsiders Personal Narrative Essay**

Due Date: **\_At the end of the period\_**

Student Name: **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

In S.E. Hinton’s novel, The Outsiders, the main characters all feel like an outsider in some way in their lives. Each person has experienced not being on the “inside.” Because of this, they have a lot of mixed feelings and emotions: anger, jealousy, injustice, loneliness, embarrassment, or insignificance. In this personal narrative, you will share your experience with being an outsider and you will share what you have learned from going through that.

**What is a personal narrative?**

Personal narratives tell the story of an experience a writer had in their life. These written experiences typically unveil a life lesson the writer has learned or give some truth and insight into past occurrences. **Example:** *The Diary of Anne Frank*

**Assignment:**

In your essay, you will narrate a time in your life when you have felt like an outsider. You may also write about a time when you saw the effects on someone who felt like an outsider. Each of us has had an experience with feeling like an outsider or has experienced dealing with a friend or family member that has felt like an outsider. This essay is your own personal testimony: detailing your experience, feelings, and life lesson. You are going to pull us into your story.

**Possible Topics:**  Maybe…

* You feel like an outsider when you are around certain people, but you have finally found your “group”
* You experienced wanting to be on the “inside” or the “other side” (like Ponyboy in the story)
* You had an experience helping someone who felt like an outsider feel like an insider
* You found yourself on the outside and you wanted to be in
* You realized you didn’t want to be or need to be “in” anymore
* You were on the inside and you finally realized what your group was doing to people on the outside

**The possibilities are endless. Please remember that this is your story and the only way the reader can be drawn into your experience is if you detail the event(s) with various descriptions.**

**Graded Requirements**

**Format**

1. Hand Written
2. Skip lines
3. Neatly Written
4. 4 paragraphs long
5. Each paragraph must be *at least* 5-7 sentences
6. Paragraphs are indented
7. ONLY use front of lined paper

**Content:**

1. Attach your completed outline/brainstorm to your neatly written paper (This means you MUST complete an outline/brainstorm)
2. There must be an introduction paragraph, 2 body paragraphs, and a conclusion paragraph.

**The Outsiders Personal Narrative Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Topic**  | **Description** | **Possible Points** |
| **Content** | **Introduction** | * Student’s instruction contains a hook to pull the reader into their story.
* Student also sets the scene for the reader by providing background information the reader will need in order to understand the story.
* Student’s thesis statement tells the reader the moral their narrative lesson will teach or states the message the writer is sending through their story.
 | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/20 |
| **Body Paragraphs**This is the “meat” of your story; the rising and falling action | * Student uses details in their narrative that appeal to the 5 senses: sight, touch, hear, smell, taste. *I* ***almost choked*** *on the smelled coming from the gym. It* ***smelled*** *like* ***10 day old sweaty football practice*** *socks.* **\*Appeal to senses with details and imagery\***
* Student uses the details of their story as evidence for their thesis statement (the moral of the story).
* Student tells the event chronologically (in the order they happened)
* Student uses transition words to connect their thoughts and paragraphs
 | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/20 |
| **Conclusion**  | * Student includes the final event (resolution) in their conclusion paragraph.
* Student reflects on what they have learned from this event and analyzes how this event has taught them a “life lesson.”
 | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/25 |
| **Format** | There are at least 4 paragraphs in the narrative: introduction, 2 body paragraphs, and a conclusion.  | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/5 |
| Each Paragraph is 5-7 well written sentences  | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/5 |
| Paragraphs are indented  | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/5 |
| Paper is double space or Lines are skipped ***(if it is handwritten)*** | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/5 |
| Paper is typed, 12 Font, Times New Roman or Handwriting is neat and legible  | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/5 |
| **Outline** | * Student has attached a completed outline to their final paper
* Student’s outline is a good indication of what they discussed in their paper in their paper
 | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/10 |
| **Teacher Comments:**  | **Total Points:****\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/**100 |