

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

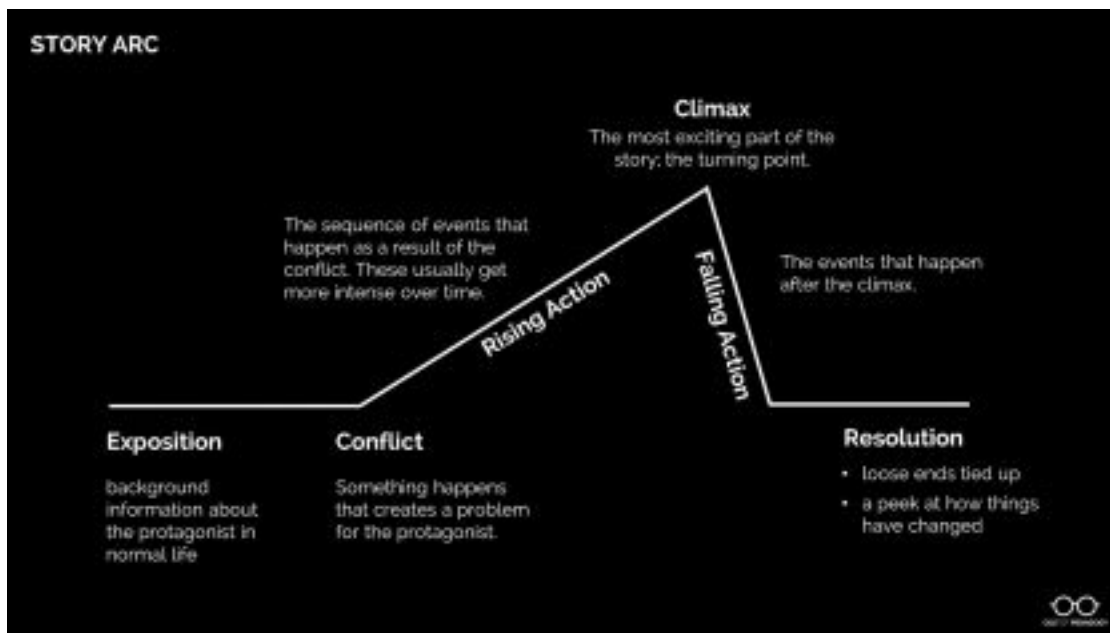
Second Half of Your Personal Narrative

OPENER: See feedback from your teacher on the first half of your personal narrative.

What changes/additions do you plan to make to the first half of your personal narrative?

CLASS ACTIVITY: Our Writing Schedule and the Arc of a Story

Today's Focus: **Climax, Falling Action, and Resolution**



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| <p><u>Climax</u></p> | <p>What makes this strong?</p> |
| <p>The night my father started dying in 2002, I greeted him in the doorway after he came home from work, to give him a kiss hello and ask for his blessing. I was 13. He collapsed onto me to cry into my neck. My father the dictator, heaving full-throated sobs. He handed me a letter saying that New York State had suspended driver’s licenses for undocumented immigrants as part of a post-Sept. 11 national security measure. My father had just lost his job as a taxi driver. He had also lost his only official form of ID.</p> | |
| <p><u>Falling Action</u></p> | <p>What makes this strong?</p> |
| <p>I never learned to swim. The farthest I had ever ventured into the ocean was to my knees, screaming the whole while. But by last summer, our roles had so profoundly reversed and his self-esteem was so low that I wondered if I could give that back to him, this ability to save me. I invited him to come spend an afternoon at the beach in the middle of July precisely with the purpose of teaching me how to swim.</p> <p>We went to Lighthouse Point on Long Island Sound, not far from downtown New Haven, Conn. I like this beach because there are always black and brown families fishing or building sand castles there, proudly being alive, and there is just something about the ocean air perfuming dark bodies that makes me want to live another day.</p> <p>My father told me the first step was being able to stand in deep water. Your legs have to be apart just so, and you use your arms to stabilize yourself. He asked me to shift my weight from foot to foot as if I was on a bumpy subway ride. He grabbed my hand and we went deeper into the ocean until the water was up to my chest, the deepest I had ever gone. “Next, you float,” he told me. He grabbed my hands and asked me to go on my stomach, extend my legs as far as they would go, and kick. He assured me he would not let go.</p> | |

| Resolution | What makes this strong? |
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| <p>A couple of months after that outing, I asked my father to leave our home in Queens because his relationship with my mother, after 30 years — 29 of which had been spent in America, together and illegally — had become toxic. He left home one night while my mother and younger brother were at church.</p> <p>Shortly before I asked him to leave, my father had told my brother: “I am tired of living just for you and your sister. It is my turn to be happy now.”</p> <p>He had handled it the wrong way, totaled some people’s lives in his wake, but he was right. It was his turn to be happy.</p> | |

| <u>Plan the Second Half of Your Personal Narrative</u> |
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| <p>CLIMAX - What will be the big event, the turning point, of your personal narrative? This can be something big that happens externally, or a big internal realization!</p> |
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| <p>FALLING ACTION - What happens in response to the climax/turning point? This should be moving us toward the ending.</p> |
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| <p>RESOLUTION - How do things (begin to) change as a result of what happened? Even though things may not be fully resolved/tied up neatly, how does this narrative come to a close? This does not have to be a “happy ending” - try to avoid cliches here.</p> |

INDEPENDENT WORK : Now that you have done some planning, write the second half of your piece. Reminder, your completed piece cannot be longer than 600 words (about one page single spaced).

If you have not yet finished the first half of your piece (your hook, exposition, conflict, and rising action) do that first. Then move on to your climax, falling action, and resolution.