Your Title

Start typing your essay here and refer to the instructions below.

***After you have finished your essay,   
please delete all the instructions below as well as the personal narrative examples.***

**Please DO the following**

* **Use Cambria @ 11 pt size (it’s already set up in the format above).**
* **Double click above in the header to put your student number; you may then double click on the body of the essay to return to type here**
* **Remember that you are writing personal narrative, which means you are allowed to use 1st person, yet still work to keep your vocabulary formal EXCEPT when using dialogue (when there might be a need to be more colloquial)**
* **Even though this is a personal narrative, there still should be a ‘Thesis’ or ‘Message’ we are meant to learn from it.**
* **You may refer to the Personal Narrative Process booklet during your writing.** 
  + **Introduction: The “Hook”, Set the Scene, Thesis Statement**
  + **Body Paragraphs: “Show Don’t Tell”, Supporting Evidence, Passage of Time, Transitions**
  + **Conclusion: The Moral of the Story**
  + **Additionally, consider incorporating dialogue as well into your piece.** 
    - **Remember that every time a new person speaks, it should be a new paragraph**
    - **If it is just two people speaking, you do not always need to indicate who is speaking if it is just an alternating process.**

*When Patrick was finished, we said this stupid mantra together—LIVING OUR BEST LIFE TODAY—and it was over. Augustus Waters pushed himself out of his chair and walked over to me. His gait was crooked like his smile. He towered over me, but he kept his distance so I wouldn’t have to crane my neck to look him in the eye. “What’s your name?” he asked.*

*“Hazel.”*

*“No, your full name.”*

*“Um, Hazel Grace Lancaster.” He was just about to say something else when Isaac walked up. “Hold on,” Augustus said, raising a finger, and turned to Isaac. “That was actually worse than you made it out to be.”*

*“I told you it was bleak.”*

* **Delete out the green and red instructions AND the sample narratives when you have finished your composition.**
* **Make sure you proofread and spellcheck your work.**
* **Email a copy to Mr. F. from your preferred address including your name, class, and period clearly identified in the subject header.**

**You may NOT do the following:**

* **Use a translator or translation site**
* **Use any other websites or resources (other than those that you have created yourself, such as your own notes or own previously written work)**

**My First Talent Show**

Standing backstage, I could feel my heart thumping in my chest. “Just relax,” my friend Jenny whispered. “You’re ready for this.” I nodded. Jenny was right. I’d been practicing my song for the school talent show for six weeks. Still, picturing an audience packed with kids, parents and teachers made me want to run out the door.

“Too late for that,” I thought, as Mr. Peterson announced my song. Jenny gave me a nudge, and suddenly I was on the stage. Standing in the spotlight, I grasped the microphone and belted out the lyrics. I heard my voice pour through the speakers and fill the room. “It’s going well,” I thought to myself. “Don’t mess up.”

I looked out at the sea of faces. The auditorium was dark, but I could see hundreds of eyes staring back at me. The smell of candy bars and popcorn filled the room. “I hope Jenny is saving some for me,” I thought, as I started the chorus one last time.

As I finished the song, the audience began to clap. “Yeah, \_ Katie!” one kid yelled. “You rock!” screeched another. I took a bow and walked offstage with a smile plastered across my face. “How many days until next year’s talent show?” I asked Jenny.

**Promises Are Not Meant to Be Broken**

My heart leaped with excitement! My hero (a.k.a. my dad) was taking care of my older brothers and me. At the very least, this meant chocolate marshmallow ice-cream cones and maybe even the privilege of staying up past 8:00 P.M. Clean, polished, and properly p.j.’d, I plastered my charming five-year-old smile on my face and politely begged to watch *Wagon Train*, a show that ended at 9:00, with my brothers. To my great delight Dad caved in but made me promise to go to bed at 8:30.

Happily I crossed my heart and pledged to do as I was told. Little did I know that later I would face a decision that would fill me with doubt, cause me to disobey my dad, and lead me to suffer the unhappy consequences.

Along with *The Lone Ranger*, *Wagon Train* promised to become one of my favorite television shows. Filled with western frontier action, the trials and tribulations of America’s early pioneers kept me and my siblings on the edge of our seats. Right in the middle of a dramatic showdown, my oldest brother told me it was 8:30, time for me to go to bed. Although a small voice whispered, “Remember what you promised Dad,” a louder voice shouted, “Hide somewhere so you can see whether Cookie gets scalped!” Back and forth, up and down my conscience seesawed. Doubt clung to me like a wide strip of Velcro. “Bang!” The battle against the Indians began, and I was hooked. Pretending to head toward bed, I stealthily crept behind the stairwell wall. From there I had a clear view of the television, yet no one in the living room could see me. Propped up against the wall with my teddy bear in hand, I made my fateful decision: I would watch the rest of the show. Totally enthralled by the action, I failed to see my dad enter the living room and head toward the stairs.

Before I could zip into my room, Dad, red-faced and angry, appeared at the bottom of the steps. With a quivering voice he declared, “Sue, you must never, ever break a promise. I counted on you to keep your word.” Immediately the tears welled up and trickled down my cheeks. I had disappointed my hero, and, even worse, I had disappointed my best moral self. Slowly my father continued, “I think an appropriate punishment would be to go without watching TV for an entire week. And that means no *Wagon Train*!” In the end, the prospect of not seeing any of my favorite shows did not bother me nearly as much as the thought of letting down my dear old dad.

When I was just five I learned a valuable lesson from an extraordinary teacher: my dad. After disobeying him one night and suffering the natural consequences of my actions, I realized how important it is to keep a promise. To this day if I promise to do something, you can bet your bottom dollar that I will do it.

**The Boy with Chris Pine Blue Eyes**

High school alone is the hardest part of any teenager’s life, but when it gets mixed in with an awkward adolescent’s idea of liking someone, life turns into a whirlwind emotional adventure. Like my plate wasn’t overflowing already with a chemistry teacher who called me “Crash” (a name I acquired after dropping a beaker during our first lab), a sassy algebra teacher who said that I didn't have the aptitude for the subject, or a French teacher who flirted with the class and laughed at her own jokes. No, I complicated things even further because, stupid me, I fell in love.

It all started one morning at my locker as I fumbled to find the French book I hadn’t used in about a month. In the crowded locker bay someone stepped on my toes and, consequently, rammed me into the absolute zenith of high school popularity standing to my right. I accidentally hit Miss Popularity while she attempted to apply lipstick. In the reflection of the three mirrors that hung in her locker, I saw a red smear across her acne-free, rouged cheek. I also saw the image of the person responsible for this collision. When I turned to get a better glimpse, there he was.

Lockers may have slammed, Miss Popularity may have pouted, but everything stopped for me. All I saw was him. It felt like someone had reached down my throat and, with strong fingers, drawn my breath and stomach from my trembling body. His sapphire eyes drilled deep into my heart, and every nuance of his face became eternally etched into my mind. The tall, thin body stood out like a glistening jewel among the dull coal of the locker bay. Sensing my eyes burning deep into him, he turned around and said, “Ah, sorry. My bad.” The words were spoken by a voice that could talk a man down from a ledge. I could tell by the tone and inflection that he felt deep remorse in his soul for displacing my body—or maybe the burrito he had at lunch didn’t agree with him, I’m not really sure. From that moment on, during every free second, I suddenly became busy thinking about him. Wondering about this boy made sleepless nights overflow with sweet images. Dull math periods were filled with idle daydreams. I became obsessed with this senior with Chris Pine blue eyes.

I wasn’t the only one who decided that having Blue Eyes as a boyfriend was a good idea. Miss Popularity decided that he, out of all the salivating dogs begging, whimpering, pawing for her attention, would be the perfect playful puppy. Worse yet, I had to witness her primitive flirting ritual in the lunchroom.

She would strut toward the soda machine, swaying her hips from side to side, in an effort to catch one of his incandescent blue eyes. She was beautiful and she knew it. This was when it really started to get good—for him I mean. Purposely, her skirt inched up revealing her fleshy thigh as she struggled to remove a quarter nestled in her warm pocket. Blue Eyes was rabid with lust. Foam gushed out of his mouth and fire burned within his eyes. He was imagining the heat of the metal, so close to her body, then falling from her manicured hand to the floor. As he picked the coin up, those blue eyes examined every centimeter of her shapely legs. He was so close he could smell the sweetness of her perfume mixed with laundry detergent and the playful scent of teenage girl.

The whole scene caused a churning in my stomach, which turned to a hopeless nausea. The colorful world of love turned into a black, grey pit. Every strand of my hair hung like a 400-pound weight. There was no way I was going to give in to Miss Popularity, who just happened to be my best friend. Yes, yes, I was the goofy sidekick. She could turn the world on with her smile, and I couldn’t turn the world on with anything.

Through friends, acquaintances, and the grueling detailed accounts from Miss Popularity, I slowly gained more knowledge about my new love.

“Oh, Lisa, he smells so good!”

Smile. *Yeah, Miss Popularity, I bet anything with a pulse smells good to you.*

“And he’s so sweet!”

Bigger smile. *Oh, and why is he so sweet? Maybe it’s that shapely body of yours.*

“But I might have to work on his style a bit. Then he’ll be really hot!”

Smile. Nod. *Then he’ll be hot!? If the kid got any hotter he'd be illegal in 37 states and 2 territories! This boy should not be allowed to roam around in public.*

All the basics—name, address, and hobbies—slowly unfolded, and an elaborate plan of action for an encounter started to form in my mind. But before it had a chance to fully develop, I had a surprise Blue Eyes sighting. He came to my photography class during one of his study halls (by this time I knew his schedule) to do extra work on one of his pictures. My mind raced; my hands shook. Should I act like I like him? Should I not notice him? Should I talk to him?

*Talk to him. He’s your best friend’s boyfriend. Talk to him! Oh, how can I look at his cherubic face when I know he'll be looking back at mine? I don’t believe it. He’s got to be kidding. I don’t believe he’s wearing that shirt. He looks so good in that shirt. How can I talk to someone who looks that good in a shirt? That cotton clings to just the right places, and his jeans are sculpted to enhance and accentuate that squeezably soft…*

So distracted by the mental roller coaster I was on, I couldn’t speak when he said, “Phat print.”

Left with my eyes agog, I missed my one opportunity to speak with that walking, talking piece of artwork. Days dragged on and so did Miss Popularity’s relationship with Blue Eyes. He would nip at her heels as they walked down the hall. They would cuddle in class, and she would even feed him at lunch! Whatever the phoniest couple thing that you’ve seen, they did it. I’m surprised that people weren’t driven to violent nausea and fits of puking when they saw them together.

But like most good things, their relationship had to come to an unfortunate end. After Blue Eyes wasn’t such a new puppy for Miss Popularity, their relationship deteriorated. From what I gathered after late night confessionals with Miss Popularity, he wasn’t learning any new tricks.

Later that year I went to his graduation, and with the toss of his cap and the flip of his tassel, a sense of defeat and despair filled my body.

*Good-bye. Jesus Mary Joseph, you are such an idiot. You obsessed over him for almost a year! Do you realize you never spoke one word to him? Not a single syllable. Yes, but if you had he would have laughed at you and your silly, girlish crush. You didn’t deserve him in the first place.*

*Oh, but I really liked him. I liked him so much, and he didn’t even know I was alive!*

*Get over it. Half the school doesn’t even know you’re alive.*

I watched his blue Honda Civic race away. With the peel of the tires and the smell of burning rubber, I knew he had gone forever.

Then the pain lifted from my body, like a heavy weight, and was replaced by a feeling of accomplishment and relief. I made it through the grueling torture of a high school crush and lived to tell about it. There existed no class project hard enough or cafeteria food indigestible enough to even compare.