**Getting Personal- The Narrative Essay**

Why do we tell stories?

What is the narrative essay?

* An essay that tells a story, often based on the author’s personal experiences
* Most often, writers use a chronological method of development. Sometimes, a writer incorporates a flashback.
* The key to this type of essay is to write about the personal experience to allow the reader a sense of why the story is significant. This is an implied thesis. Although it may not be obviously stated like a typical thesis, it should be obvious why the piece was written
* Usually, readers are not aware of the implied thesis or the significance until the end

How is the narrative essay different from a short story?

* Short stories are fictional accounts, whereas narrative essays are based on a true experience
* The order of events is unimportant in a story
* More focus is placed on characters, setting, and plot in a story. The implied thesis and creating overall meaning is the most important in the narrative essay.
* Short stories are controlled by the writer’s imagination while the narrative essay’s story is controlled by the content