

Narrative vs. Expository Writing

1. What is a Personal Narrative Writing Prompt?

This type of writing prompt asks you to tell about a personal experience that has really happened to you.

This Type Of Writing Is Characterized By:

- Creative
- About Self
- Shows the Passing of Time
- Has a Detailed Setting
- Has Supporting Details
- Gives Information and an Explanation about Events

2. What is an Expository Writing Prompt?

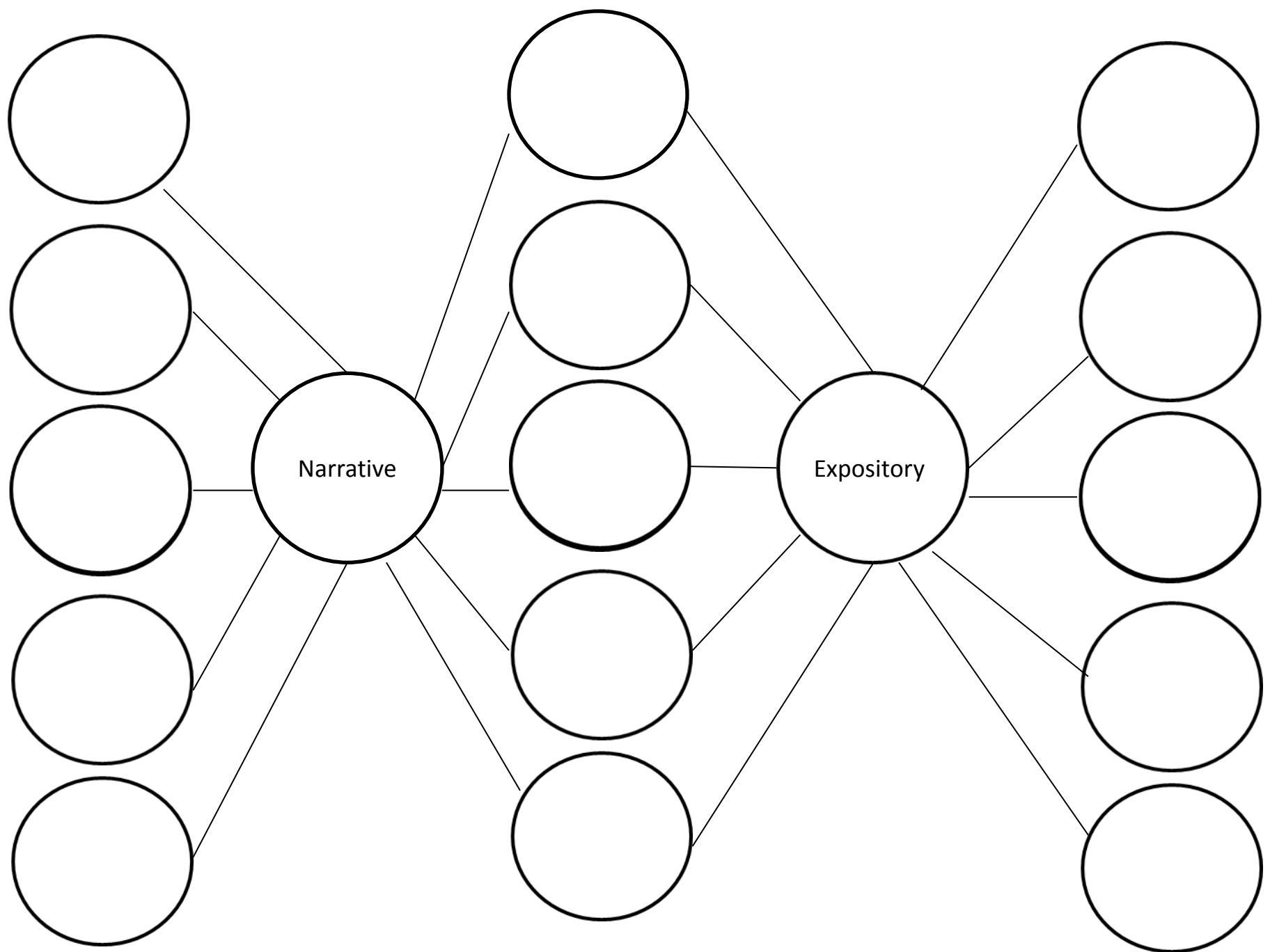
This type of writing prompt does NOT ask you to write a personal story. Instead, it asks you to inform the reader truthfully and factually about a specific topic.

This Type Of Writing Is Characterized By:

- Factual
- Has Specific Information
- Is Organized
- Gives YOUR Opinion
- Explains Reasoning

Now we will take a look
at some
“4 STAAR”
and
“1 STAAR”
essays.





You will create a compare/contrast thinking map over Narrative and Expository writing.

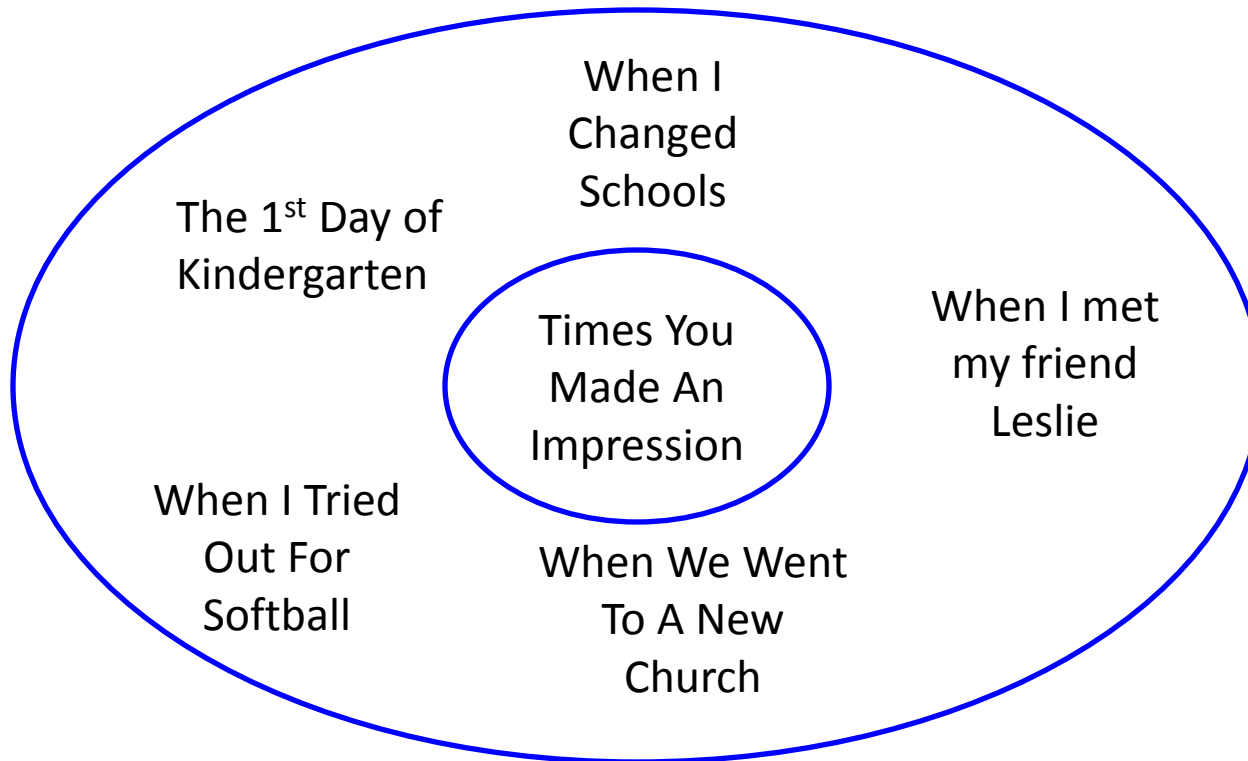
Look at the pictures below.



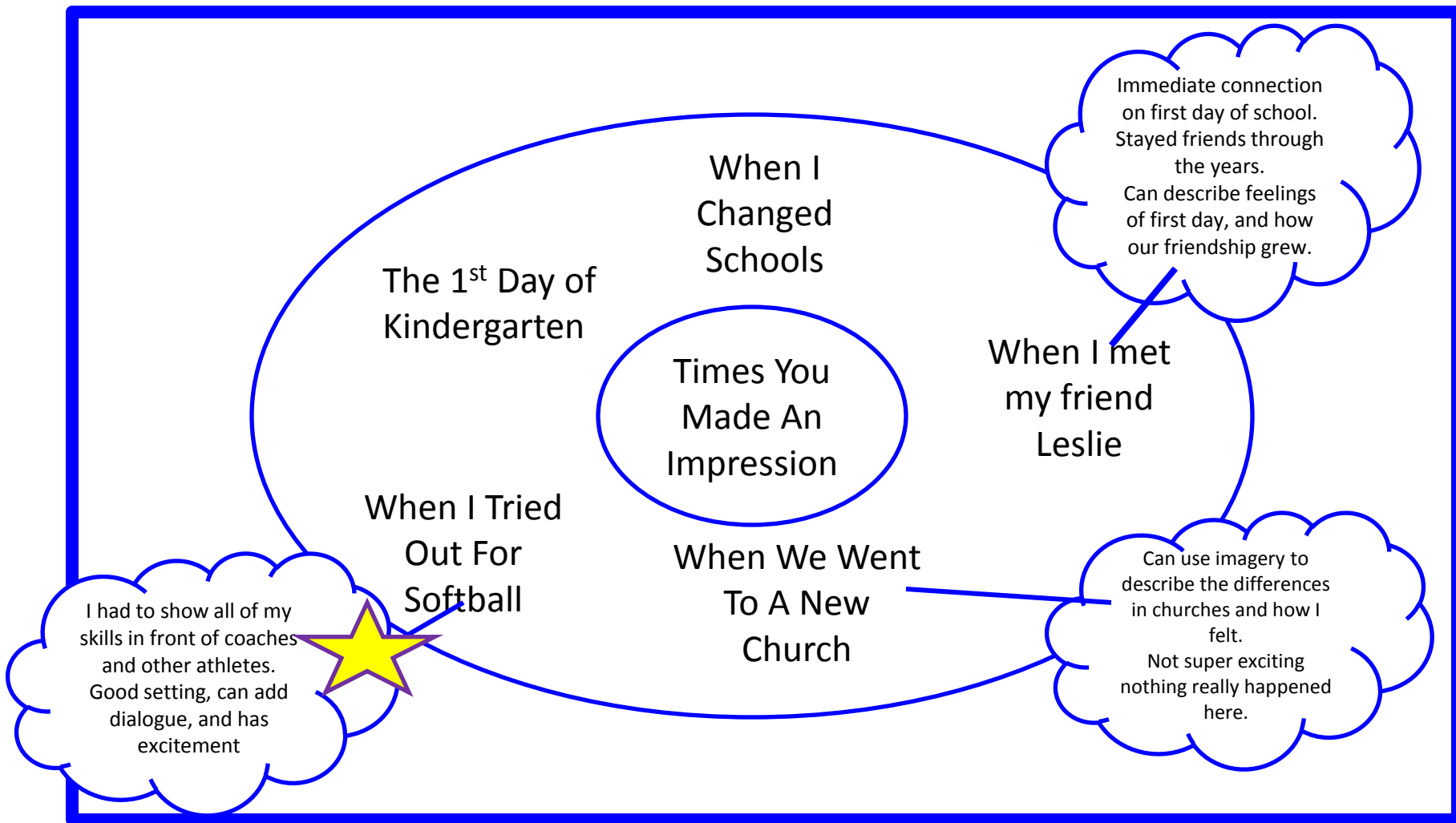
Meeting others for the first time can be challenging.

Write a personal narrative about a time when you tried to make a good impression on someone. Be sure to write about your experience in detail and describe why it was memorable.

To being brainstorming for a narrative, it is helpful to use a circle map to get possible topics down. Create one for yourself now.



Now, think about which of your memories would be the most exciting story for others to learn about. Consider the characters and events that you would put in each story. Add some notes to your map, and place a star next to the best one.



Introduction -

Narrative
Pre-Writing
Thinking Map



What Happened First



What Happened Second



What Happened Last



Conclusion

As you brainstorm, put hints about how you can make your story exciting. Don't forget about using figurative language!

Introduction –

- Start with dialogue between me and my dad.
- Use imagery to describe the weather to set up the mood



What Happened First

- Phone Call – Missing Tryouts
- Describe my devastation



What Happened Second

- Describe nervousness about trying-out in front of coaches
- Use inner dialogue to show how badly I wanted to impress them.



What Happened Last

- Describe the coaches deliberating – use dialogue
- Describe the rising tension that I felt



Conclusion

- Describe the decision and the excitement and relief that I felt.
- Describe the theme of my story which is if you really try your best you can succeed

Narrative Pre-Writing Thinking Map

As you brainstorm, put hints about how you can make your story exciting. Don't forget about using figurative language!

Drafting (A.K.A. The First Draft)

As you begin your first draft, it is important that you start with a good impression. (Ha-Ha-Ha! Get it???)

Let's look over our Leads in Narrative Writing Handout.

Now, think about which lead would help your story hook the reader.

Drafting (A.K.A. The First Draft)

It's time to get started! Remember to follow your thinking map!

Get all of your thoughts down first, and after you do that you can go back and make major changes when we revise.

Don't forget your figurative language!!!

“Have you heard anything yet?” I ran to ask my dad for the fourth time in the last thirty minuets.

“No, you should go practice your swing while you wait. I’ll let you know as soon as I hear anything,” he replied with a hint of annoyance in his voice.

I cannot believe the awful weather today. Each drop of rain brought further devastation to the day I had been looking forward to for weeks. I always look forward to a new year when you get to impress new coaches, and get on a new team. I practiced my swing a few times but ended up just staring out the window hoping that the sun would begin to shine when the final blow came,

“Leah, they just called to cancel tryouts,” my Dad called through the hallway.

I know this is stupid because they will try again tomorrow, but I am feeling a mixture of anger and sadness as I begin to cry.