

Personal-Professional Narrative Feedback Tool

The best professional and personal narratives strategically align your values and experiences with the opportunity or topic at hand, and project those values meaningfully toward future goals. You might consider limited and specific set of values (or a single value) that will supply the grounding theme for the essay. Then, begin to gather compelling and diverse evidence for those foundational values. In the grading scale below, “1” represents work that aptly fulfills the noted criteria. A “2” represents work that often fulfills the noted criteria. A “3” represents work that only partially fulfills the noted criteria. A “4” or “5” represent work that demonstrate deeper flaws in relation to the noted criteria.

Criteria	Excellent (no deduction)	1	2	3	4	5
Opening Moves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening situates the reader in the midst of an engaging thought, action, or academic reflection that aptly frames the narrative by revealing a core set of values. 					
Middle Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Middle paragraphs focus on representative experiences (academic, personal, intellectual, professional). 					
Final Gestures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conclusion strategically extends, echoes, or reflects upon the thoughts or actions introduced in the opening in light of the unfolding narrative Conclusion projects grounding values meaningfully and specifically towards future goals or ideas about the future. 					
Narrative Arc & Transitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paragraphs form a cohesive story of growth and development Transitions between paragraphs effectively bridge core ideas rather than rely on mere sequence or chronology 					
Analytical & Conceptual Depth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Author effectively engages readings on the values and viability of English, weaving those ideas throughout the narrative. 					
The Stuff of Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Author offers evidence to support essay’s grounding values Essay gives the character <i>something to do</i>, aptly balancing action and reflection and avoiding abstraction Author’s character is likable—perhaps quirky, but not flawed We understand who and where the author is in space and time. 					
Style and Function	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Author varies sentence pacing (length) and structure (syntax) Essay is polished with few errors Author achieves concision by using active voice and vivid verbs (few “to be” verbs), and avoiding strings of prepositional phrases Author writes for a broader public 					
The Detailed Self	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Author uses vivid details to engage the reader on multiple sensory and intellectual levels, encouraging the reader to smell, hear, think, feel, taste, see, laugh, and so on 					