

To: English 10 Students
From: Miss Bass
Date: September 11, 2013
Subject: Memo for Personal Narrative

For my narrative, I chose to write about my experience directly after college and how I wasn't ready to settle down. I wanted to have the opportunity to travel and live freely before feeling like I had to stay in one place. I had the opportunity to do this when I lived and worked in California and spend a lot of time climbing in Joshua Tree National Park.

I think I did a good job of conveying my message and sticking to my topic. I tried to make sure to keep a logical order and bring my piece full circle. I start with writing about license plates and end with talking about license plates.

Areas I can improve upon would be to make sure I don't have superfluous information. I am still not sure I need to go into as much detail about Thanksgiving dinner. Also, in the following sentences, "This lifestyle continued for another year. I haven't been back to Joshua Tree since I stopped working in Southern California in October 2004. It's a place that I think about often and want to reconnect with." I am not sure this information is necessary unless I explain why I would like to reconnect with Joshua Tree.

I could add a part about how I don't climb anymore and how climbing signified a time in my life when I could be a dirt-bag. When I stopped climbing, I feel like I grew up. In college I would put aside my work and drive 9 hours to West Virginia to climb. What has replaced climbing for me? Mountain biking? Roller derby? Should I even mention these things or would they ruin my narrative?

I also don't know if I would like to add anything about the other places I have lived: "Wyoming, Oregon, Wyoming (again)." I think if I added this it would show that I had to check out my options before I "settled."

I realized as I was driving last weekend to Denver that Colorado plates actually have white mountains with green background, so I changed, "My current license plate is a Colorado plate with green mountains on a white background" and "It was an intentional choice to live in a place with green mountains" to "My current license plate is a Colorado plate with snow-covered mountains on a forested background" and "It was an intentional choice to live in a place with snowy mountains."

Recollecting my life over ten years ago has been important for me as I now own a house. I ended my essay with this line: "It was an intentional choice to live in a place with snowy mountains and own a house where my silver Toyota Corolla sits waiting for her next adventure."