Answer prompts below to determine whether the event you want to write about will make a good narrative essay topic.

☐ FOCUSED EVENT

Describe the event in two sentences or less.

____________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________

☐ CENTRAL CONFLICT/PROBLEM

An interesting story generally develops around one of the four conflict types shown below:

- **Self v. Another Person** (You v. a cyber-bully; you v. your best friend who’s competing for the same job opening)
- **Self v. Self** (Your ambition to become an aviator v. your fear of math skills required for pilot’s license; your conscience v. desire for making easy money with a Ponzi scheme)
- **Self v. Force of Nature** (Your survival v. a grizzly bear encountered on a hike; your completion of marathon v. pain from sprained ankle)
- **Self v. Society** (Your right to keep beloved pitbull v. community ordinance prohibiting pitbull ownership; your freedom to ride your motorcycle without a helmet v. Missouri helmet law)

1. Identify the type of conflict (“Self v. ___”) central to your narrative:

   _________________________________________________________

2. Describe the specific conflict (See above examples in parentheses) central to your narrative in a short phrase or sentence:

   _________________________________________________________

   _________________________________________________________

   _________________________________________________________
OUTCOME (CLIMAX)

A. Which side won the conflict?

________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________

B. In no more than two sentences, describe the moment when one side wins over the other:

________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________

C. SIGNIFICANCE

In one or two sentences, describe the major change in the way you think or feel about yourself, other people or some aspect of life as a result of this event:

Before this experience, I would describe my attitude/perspective toward........... as......

________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________

As a result of this experience, my attitude/perspective is now

________________________________________________________

Did you respond to all five prompts? Terrific! The event you want to write about has passed the test for a good narrative essay topic. Now, go forth and write your narrative essay!