

Summary and (Personal) Narrative Response

Purpose:

To narrate a personal connection to the major text we read this semester, *JUST MERCY*.

We'll learn how to write with basic narrative techniques discussed below.

Directions:

Choosing a Topic:

Choose a quote or moment from the book that you can relate to by way of a specific, personal experience. In other words, the quote should be something that sparks a memory. You may look at your reading response archives, or choose a new quote.

For instance, if you were writing this about Dr. King's "Letter from the Birmingham Jail," you might choose the quote, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." That quote might remind you of when your you and best friend got in trouble in high school for skipping, even though there were plenty of other people who skipped all the time.

The Summary:

In the paper's introduction, you'll summarize the part in *Just Mercy* where the quote occurs, and connect your experience by way of a thesis, which serves as a hook.

Thesis Example:

Dr. King's assertion that, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," is true, not just on the streets or in our prisons, but also in our high schools. I should know.

Narrative Response:

Tell the story in three to four pages. You don't need to mention *Just Mercy* after the introduction. The connection should be clear in the thesis but after that, you do not need to transition. Centered asterisks → * will work fine. It's up to you.

The narrative should consist of a consistent POV/Tense, specific descriptions and a clear timeline.

SUMMARY AND PERSONAL NARRATIVE RESPONSE

Prewriting Notes

Format: Upload to iCollege in a Word Document

Write at least one paragraph (3-5 sentences) for each answer to the following questions.

- **Which quote/idea from JUST MERCY will you respond to and why?**
- **What will your narrative be about? Tell a mini version of the story, beginning middle and end here:**
- **How will you write the narrative? In other words, what tense will you use? A brief outline is acceptable for this portion.**

Grading Rubric for Summary and Personal Narrative Response

Summary and Focus (25%)

- The summary is concise, contains all main ideas, flows, and is objective.
- The student is able to communicate the ideas of the original poetry/prose in his/her own words.
- The student has arrived at a specific and innovative/creative perspective in response to the assignment.

Development of Student's Ideas and Engagement with Texts (25%):

- The author makes a clear connection between the reading and the narrative.
- The essay shows that the student can apply concepts/ideas from sources or own experience in the development of the student's own ideas; this development includes concrete and descriptive details, narration, analysis, and examples.

Organization (25%):

- Each part of the essay flows logically from the preceding point.
- Coherence between and within paragraphs is distinctive and further supports the writer's goal to provide clear understanding and engaged reading throughout the essay.
- Proper MLA Format

Grammar, Spelling, and Mechanics (25%):

- Minimal errors in spelling, grammar, or mechanics appear so that the reader is never distracted by errors.
 - The writing meets the standards of college-level English.
- [Frequent and serious errors will lower an essay's grade to below a C.]**