# W05 Writing Project

### **Context**

Last week, you started your Personal History Project. This week you will write the personal narrative portion and add it to the project. Remember that you will compile and revise both the Week 04 assignment and this assignment and submit the full project in Week 06.

Narratives tell a single story from the author’s point of view. The events of the story could have occurred over a few hours or years, but it should help your descendants understand you better. Each narrative is typically one to two pages long.

### **Requirements**

Think about three significant events or interests in your life that you want to share with your family and write a narrative for each one. Focus on one specific purpose or message, and remember to balance the amount of detail (characterization, descriptions of setting, dialog, metaphor, etc.) with the need to keep your narrative moving forward. Here are some possible topics:

* + Working toward a degree or certificate
	+ A childhood memory
	+ Meeting your spouse
	+ The day a child was born
	+ A spiritual experience
	+ The story behind a beloved family tradition
	+ A story related to a place you have lived
	+ A story about developing a talent
	+ The story behind an activity you enjoy
	+ A time you learned something from a challenge
	+ Stories about your spouse or children

Your three narratives should be one to two pages each for a total of three to six pages.

The compiled project will be submitted in APA format, so you should begin practicing APA format this week, though the title page is not required until the final assignment is submitted in Week 06.  To access the [BYU-Idaho APA Style Guide](https://sites.google.com/byui.edu/apasiteguide/home).

### **Deadline:**

Submit your assignment to[W05 Writing Project](https://byupw.instructure.com/calendar#view_name=agenda)in Canvas, which is due by the end of the week.



## Tips for Being a Successful Online Student

Set a Timer: It is easier to be highly productive for short periods, roughly 30 minutes. Using a timer to work without distractions for 30 minutes, followed by a 5–10-minute break or returning the next day, often allows you to accomplish more than working for a few hours without a break.

## Tips for Improving Your Writing

Feedback is a Gift:Receiving feedback or edits on an assignment can be difficult and overwhelming. However, each comment is an opportunity to improve. Reading and editing a paper is a significant undertaking, and it is a gift when someone gives their time to help you improve.



### **English Writings: Mastering the Basics**

#### Commas after an Introductory Word or Phrase

You may notice a comma that appears near the beginning of the sentence, usually after a word or phrase. This comma lets the reader know where the introductory word or phrase ends and the main sentence begins.

Without spoiling the surprise, we need to tell her to save the date.

In this sentence, “without spoiling the surprise” is an introductory phrase, and “we need to tell her to save the date” is the main sentence. Notice how they are separated by a comma.

When only an introductory word appears in the sentence, a comma also follows the introductory word.

Ironically, she already had plans for that day.

### **English Writing: Mastering the Basics**

#### Dangling Modifiers

A dangling modifier is a word, phrase, or clause that describes something that has been left out of the sentence. When there is nothing that the word, phrase, or clause can modify, the modifier is said to dangle.

Incorrect: Riding in the sports car, the world whizzed by rapidly.
Correct: As Jane was riding in the sports car, the world whizzed by rapidly.



## The Lord Loves Effort

There may be times in your life when you wonder if you will succeed or even if you are good enough. Elder J. Devn Cornish (2016), a special witness of Jesus Christ, said, “I witness to you that if you will really try and will not rationalize or rebel—repenting often and pleading for the grace, or help, of Christ—you positively are going to be ‘good enough,’ that is, acceptable before the Lord; you are going to make it to the celestial kingdom, being perfect in Christ; and you are going to receive the blessings and glory and joy that God desires for each of His precious children—including specifically you and me.” The Lord does not expect you to be perfect overnight. Life is a process. Your daily efforts will bless you as you strive toward improvement. Rely on the Lord, and all things will come to pass “line upon line, precept on precept” (2 Nephi 28:30).

## **Maintain Spiritual Momentum**

Your testimony of Jesus Christ is a power that will help you throughout your life, even if your faith is still growing. President Russell M. Nelson (2021), a modern-day prophet, reminds us that “Faith in Jesus Christ is the greatest power available to us in this life. All things are possible to them that believe.

“Your growing faith in Him will move mountains—not the mountains of rock that beautify the earth but the mountains of misery in your lives. Your flourishing faith will help you turn challenges into unparalleled growth and opportunity.” Your faith may start as a seed, but as you nourish your faith, it will grow and become a greater power in your life.

## Be Patient

Your life may not be exactly how you planned it to be, but that does not mean you are not loved by our Father in Heaven. Have faith and be patient with yourself as you go through life’s journey. Elder Claudio D. Zivic (2018), a special witness of Jesus Christ, shared, “Life is different for each of us. We all have a time of trials, a time for happiness, a time for making decisions, a time for overcoming obstacles, and a time for taking advantage of opportunities.“Whatever our personal situations may be, I testify that our Heavenly Father is constantly saying, ‘I love you. I sustain you. I am with you. Do not give up. Repent and endure in the path that I have shown you. And I assure you that we will see each other again in our celestial home.’” Resist the temptation to compare your life to anyone else’s and recognize God’s hand in your life.



Read this online at <https://books.byui.edu/writing_in_professional_contexts/w05_writing_project>