

ATTRIBUTES OF A WELL-WRITTEN NARRATIVE

Brief

1. chose a main idea to emphasize in the telling of my story
2. start at a point in the story that is essential to your main idea ex. Icarus -- impetuosity
3. cut out irrelevant material

clear

1. generally, narrate events in the order of time; use verb tenses logically
2. events are based on an understanding common with audience (don't lose them)
3. use vivid diction and avoid ambiguous words

credible

1. what you've written is not contrary to nature
2. if you tell what may seem unbelievable in a believable manner you've succeeded
3. your characters are true to life
4. you show reasons and motives to explain a character's actions
5. your character's actions are consistent with one another -- or there's a reason

As he spoke he reeled, and fell sprawling face upwards on the ground. His great neck hung heavily backwards and a deep sleep took hold upon him. Presently he turned sick, and threw up both wine and the gobbets of human flesh on which he had been gorging, for he was very drunk. Then I thrust the beam of wood far into the embers to heat it, and encouraged my men lest any of them should turn faint-hearted. When the

wood, green though it was, was about to blaze, I drew it out of the fire glowing with heat, and my men gathered round me, for heaven had filled their hearts with courage. We drove the sharp end of the beam into the monster's eye, and bearing upon it with all my weight I kept turning it round and round as though I were boring a hole in a ship's plank with an auger, which two men with a wheel and strap can keep on turning as long as they choose. Even thus did we bore the red hot beam into his eye, till the boiling blood bubbled all over it as we worked it round and round, so that the steam from the burning eyeball scalded his eyelids and eyebrows, and the roots of the eye sputtered in the fire. As a blacksmith plunges an axe or hatchet into cold water to temper it- for it is this that gives strength to the iron- and it makes a great hiss as he does so, even thus did the Cyclops' eye hiss round the beam of olive wood, and his hideous yells made the cave ring again. We ran away in a fright, but he plucked the beam all besmirched with gore from his eye, and hurled it from him in a frenzy of rage and pain, shouting as he did so to the other Cyclopes who lived on the bleak headlands near him; so they gathered from all quarters round his cave when they heard him crying, and asked what was the matter with him.

PROGYMNASMATA ASSIGNMENT FOR 10/22/20

Choose a favorite myth, folk tale, or anecdote from history to rewrite as a narrative _____. My narrative is between 175 and 200 words in length.

_____ I have set aside my narrative for at least 24 hours and then read it aloud to check for errors and smoothness of style.

_____ I have either typed or written clearly, using a double-spaced

format **ATTRIBUTES OF A GOOD**

NARRATIVE

Brief

_____ I chose a main idea to emphasize in the telling of my story

_____ I started at a point in the story that is essential to my main idea

_____ I cut out irrelevant material

Clear

_____ I narrated events in the order of time

_____ the events are based on an understanding common with my

audience _____ I used vivid diction and avoided ambiguous words

_____ I've used direct quotes

_____ I've used at least 5 words that paint a picture for the senses

_____ I've used at least one simile

_____ I've used at least 2 adverbs

Credible

_____ what I've written is not contrary to nature

_____ I've tried to tell what may seem unbelievable in a believable manner

_____ my characters are true to life

_____ I showed reasons and motives to explain a character's actions _____ my

character's actions are consistent with one another -- or there's a reason