Personal Narrative Writing

#1: Dialogue: use true vernacular

Let your reader “hear” the people in the story speak; your characters are real, so make them sound realistic. Make sure your dialogue is formatted correctly.

 Indent when someone new is talking, tell me who is talking. When someone else is talking, the dialogue starts on the next line (and is indented). Look at the punctuation below.

Example:

 “Hello, my name is Bill,” the boy said stiffly.

 “Oh, hi. I’m Jane,” I replied, shaking his sweaty hand.

#2: Five senses description: make your setting, characters and action come to life.

Use the 5 senses to SHOW not TELL about important elements in your story. What would it smell like? Look like? Taste like? Sound like? Feel like?

#3: Figurative Language: Use metaphors and similes (or maybe personification?) when describing characters or setting.

#4: Interior Monologue: Let us hear your “character’s” thoughts .

What is going on inside of their head? What is the character thinking while the action is happening?