



FESTIVE FOOD PERSONAL NARRATIVE

For this prompt, writers have to write a personal narrative about a favorite holiday food. Feel free to bring in a food of your own to share. It will motivate and reward your writers!

NOTE: This lesson can address the following Common Core State Standards: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.3, W.1.3, W.2.3, W.3.3, W.3.3.B, W.3.3.C, W.3.3.D, W.4.3, W.4.3.A, W.4.3.B, W.4.3.C, W.4.3.D, W.4.3.E, W.5.3, W.5.3.A, W.5.3.B, W.5.3.C, W.5.3.D and W.5.3.E.

Here's the lesson!

1. Tell the storyline. "You're going to briefly describe a favorite holiday and favorite family food. Then, you're going to write about one time when something fun, funny, terrible or unusual happened with the food."

2. Give the students plenty of time to think through their past and decide on a story about a favorite holiday food. Give some examples to help them think too:
 - a. Grandma decided to add anise to the favorite Christmas buckeyes—yuck!
 - b. The watermelon rolled off the table and split into many pieces
 - c. My mom and I baked an American flag cake that the family wanted every year after

3. Write the five sections of the story on the board for them to see:
 1. Holiday/Food
 2. Time/Place/People
 3. Normal Activity
 4. Memorable Moment
 5. Reaction/Conclusion

Remember: K-1st Graders are encouraged to write 1 sentence for each section, 2nd Graders 2 sentences, 3rd Graders 3 sentences and so on.

Now to write!

Guide the students through the following steps so their story is organized and complete. (I've included a sample in italics for your own guidance.)



1. Begin by telling what your favorite holiday is and why. Write about your favorite food.

My favorite holiday is the 4th of July. The fireworks are colorful and loud. Plus, my whole family eats an American flag cake. We didn't always eat an American flag cake.

2. Next, start the personal narrative by describing the time, place and people at the memorable moment.

Two years ago, my mom and I were in the kitchen. It was July 3rd. We wanted to make something special for the 4th of July.

3. Third, describe the normal holiday activity that was happening before the memorable moment.

We looked through magazines. There were red, white and blue cookies, pies and cupcakes. Everything looked really good.

4. Write how the memorable moment happened. Include details.

Then, I saw an American flag cake! It had blueberries for the white stars and blue background. It had strawberries for the red stripes. We decided to make it!

5. Lastly, write how people reacted and thoughts for the future.

Everyone loved the cake! They all talked about it so much. Now, we make it every year for the 4th of July.