Writing about a Personal Sporting Experience

Narration (TSGW—Chpts 2,14)



Purposes: Primary

- To express yourself—narration (tell a story): conflict & resolution
  - "Meaning" for you (your thesis or main point): Significance of a sporting experience for you/sport as a microcosm of life: conflict → resolution (*TSGW*: see dramatic arc, p. 29)
  - State your **conflict** right away, then develop it. Analyze & evaluate your feelings, thoughts, emotions that define the conflict. Make readers understand how the experience affected and shaped you, positively and/or negatively. Make readers think about a "familiar" experience differently (avoid clichés or predictable morals/outcomes) and identify with you in some way(s). **Conflict** → **Climax** → **Resolution**: fully/partially resolves the conflict? Why do sports matter?
- Inform/Describe
  - Plot/Game details: summary/sensory details—show readers key moments in a game.

Purposes: Secondary

- To entertain
  - Connect to readers' interest in/knowledge about sports. Sports as fun, dramatic, thought-provoking.
- To persuade
  - Your credibility as a writer/ participant (significance of the experience)
  - Convince readers to try a sport?

Audience

- Just as with Essay 1 (Game Story), you will complete an audience sheet for your personal narrative. See Course Notes
- Use your assumptions about audience to determine your writing strategy/shape your writing decisions.
- Where might a personal narrative like this be published?

Occasion/Context/Medium

- 4-5 pages, double spaced.
- Include a title and page numbers.
- Paragraphing for magazine—**not** a newspaper or website. Longer paragraphs than for the game story.
- Formatting—see Course Notes.

Writing Consideratons

TSGW, Chpts 2, 14; SL, Assigned readings

- What is an appropriate topic? Where will your information come from? Choose a sport you played; do not write about a sport you watched.
- What is a sport? E.g., competitive dance or competitive cheerleading (cheer)? Popular vs less popular sports?
- What kind of thesis does a personal narrative have? Where does it go? (TSGW, Ch 13)
- How should you organize your essay?
- What information/details/description do you include? Leave out? (Use audience assumptions)
- Quotations or dialogue? (This is real experience, not fiction. You can't make up dialogue.)
- Significance of sports? A microcosm of life?