

Writing Assignment 4

For this fourth assignment, please choose one of the following methods from Chapter 7 of Pamela Arlov's *Wordsmith: A Guide to Paragraphs and Short Essays* and write an effective college-level paragraph:

- **Mixed Methods Assignment 1: Brief Encounter (Narration and Description)**

Narrate a brief encounter that you have had with someone. That person may have been a stranger, a relative, a coworker, or a friend. The meeting you describe may have been your first meeting with that person or your last, a friendly encounter or an unfriendly one, but it should have been significant in some way. As you narrate the encounter, weave in a description of the other person – his appearance, her voice. Try to narrate and describe the encounter so vividly that your reader feels as though he was there with you.

- **Mixed Methods Assignment 2: The Joy of Life (Description and Example)**

Runners sometimes experience a rush of endorphins, which has been described as a “runner’s high.” An old song by John Denver describes the feeling of being in the mountains as a “Colorado Rocky Mountain high.” Both terms describe a special and rare feeling of self-awareness and joy that some might call a “high” and others might simply call “the joy of life.” What places or activities bring you joy? Describe those places or activities and give specific examples.

- **Mixed Methods Assignment 3: Childhood Unhappiness (Narration and Description)**

Write a paragraph narrating an event that upset you when you were a child but that does not seem so serious now. It could be an argument with a childhood friend, trouble with a teacher at school, or a lost game or competition. Make sure that you narrate an event that took place in a very short span of time – 15 minutes or less is suggested. As you narrate the event, make sure to weave in relevant details so that your reader sees the fall leaves or the dust that you kick up as you walk across the playground, hears the musical sounds of the ice cream truck or the angry tone in your teacher’s voice, or feels the cold rain that soaked you to the skin.

Purpose: To present a clear claim and compelling [evidence](#) in answer to one of the first three prompts on pages 120 in Arlov. **Remember to always keep the “So what?” question in the forefront. To whom will you write this? Why should they bother to read what you have to say? How do you hope your audience will think differently about life after reading your work?**

Audience: Your choice, although it must be more than one person. Be sure to attach a brief audience description to your draft, using proper [APA formatting](#) for an Appendix and using the [Audience Analysis](#) handout as a guide for details that should be included.