

8th Grade Narrative Outline #2

I. Introduction

- a. Hook- Some people are confronted with loss at a very young age. Others aren't exposed to this hurt until they enter adulthood; I was one of those individuals.
- b. Setting- Christmas of 2013 will always be remembered as a special, yet tragic time of my life.
- c. Introduce the topic- While I was celebrating the purchase of my first home as a newlywed, I was presented with my first major loss, leaving the holiday season tainted.
- d. Include emotions- The loss of my grandmother will always be a difficult memory to face, especially during the Christmas season.
- e. NOTE: Give a preview, without giving major spoilers!

II. Body 1 (Beginning) 8-10 sentences

- a. **Topic Sentence (transition from introduction) Even though the Christmas holidays will never be the same, reflecting on all of my wonderful memories with her brings peace to a painful loss.**

Include 5-6 details for your paragraph that you can elaborate on

- b. My grandmother was a part of my family before I was even born, yet she wasn't related by blood. Grandma Deannie was the only "relative" I had in California, so she was a part of every major event in my life. She was the grandma I could always count on to be there for me, and for my family. She always put others before herself, and never judged anyone for their imperfections; she made each and every person in her life feel valued. As I grew older, I watched her health deteriorate as she went through multiple surgeries because of clogged arteries. By the time I was engaged, my family started to worry about how much time she had left. She was in a wheelchair, struggled to get around, and breathing was difficult for her. My mom made driving arrangements to ensure she could be at my wedding shower and wedding, because I couldn't stomach the thought of her not being there. By my wedding day, I could see that she wasn't herself, coloring in her face had changed, and she was obviously in pain.
- c. **Closing Sentence (lead into Body 2)**
 - i. I was so grateful she was able to see me get married, but knew it was only a matter of time before she left us behind.

III. Body 2 (Middle) 8-10 sentences

- a. **Topic Sentence (transition from body 1)----Within two months of my wedding day, the inevitable happened.**
- b. Include 5-6 details for your paragraph that you can elaborate on
 1. **Last phone call-** When I think about her final days, I can't help but remember the last phone call we shared.

She told me how much closer she was to my sister and me than she was to her “real grandchildren” and how grateful she was to watch us grow over the years.

2. **The ring---**After we said our *I love yous* and thanked each other for bringing one another so much joy, she told me to keep the beautiful aquamarine ring that I wore as my “something borrowed” on my wedding day.
3. **Final hospital visit**—A few days after this emotional phone call, I knew that I had to see her one last time. My mom had visited her several times, but I needed to say goodbye in person. After many tears were shed, I prayed that her pain and suffering would soon end, just as she requested.
4. My mom keeping it from me at first
5. Preparing for the funeral
6. Going to the funeral
7. Funeral

c. **Closing Sentence (lead into Body 3)**

- i. **Our loss completely affected the holiday season, and it took time for our entire family to heal.**

IV. Body 3 (End) 8-10 sentences

a. **Topic Sentence (transition from body 2) In some ways, it seems as though we will be in a constant state of healing.**

b. Include 5-6 details for your paragraph that you can elaborate on

- i. Coping with her loss gets easier as time goes on, but when the anniversary of her passing comes up, we are all plagued with grief.
- ii. Christmas was Grandma Deannie’s favorite season, and knowing that we will never be able to share that holiday with her again is a saddening reality.
- iii. My mom will never be able to go to Christmas craft fairs and buy matching decorations again.
- iv. I will never be able take her to look at Christmas lights on the harbor, eat her infamous baked goods, or marvel at the beautiful and intricate detail involved in the wrapping of her gifts.
- v. Of course, our lives aren’t the only lives affected by her loss.
- vi. She was heavily involved in her church, and made countless gifts for women and children in need. So many families will miss her baked treats, and hand-made treasures.
- vii. She was a blessing to all who knew her; her kindness and generosity will be forever missed, but never forgotten.

c. **Closing Sentence (wrap up your story) All we can do now is treasure the memories of her, and do our best to emulate her character in all that we do.**

V. Conclusion

- a. Wrap it up! Summarize your story/restate main ideas—Losing Grandma Deannie is one of the most difficult obstacles I have been given. I have lost relatives in the past, but they were always people that I hardly knew, so I wasn't affected nearly as much.
- b. Share perspectives that changed/how this experience affected you Her passing changed my family and me because so many traditions will never be the same again, and so many more future milestones can never be shared with her. There is so much in my life that I haven't experienced yet, and when I do, I will have to experience them without her.
- c. Explain what you learned/how you grew from the experience in a couple sentences
The best that I can do to cope with the harsh reality is hope that she is watching me from above. I know that her spirit is with me, because ever since she passed, I have strived to be more like her. Grandma Deannie supported everyone that she knew; she loved unconditionally, put others first, and never criticized others. I aspire to be more like her, so that hopefully, I can change someone's life the way she changed ours.