

## Narrative or Memoir Writing Exercise

**Directions:** After reading the assigned text, consider a list of your own prized possessions. You might think of things displayed in your bedroom, stashed in a hiding place in your closet, or carried in your wallet or purse. Make a list of these items in the following space.

Look at the list of possessions and think about the stories related to each item. Where and when did you find or get the item? What did you do to obtain it? Why do you keep it? Is it only meaningful to you, or is it related to other people in your life?

Pick *one* of the possessions from the list and circle it as the focus of your narrative. Keeping the questions in the preceding paragraph in mind, use the following space to think of various elements of a narrative to help as you write.

How does your story **begin**?

What does the possession **mean** to you? Why do you keep it? How does it define you as a person?

How does your story **end**? Is there an **epiphany** (something you want to reveal—a truth or clarity)? Hint: In this case, the epiphany may be the reason for telling the story.

Who are the **characters** in your story? Describe them in detail.

What **sensory details** (see, hear, taste, smell, feel) can you add to describe your possession, the characters in your story, the setting of your story, and so on?

Keeping all your ideas in mind, begin drafting your narrative. Remember to *show* with description, dialogue, and detail—don't just *tell* the reader everything. Let the story happen through the events and dialogue. Happy writing!