

Introductory Narrative Essay

Using the prologue to Bertrand Russell's autobiographical essay *What I Live For* as a model, you will write a short, informal 5-paragraph narrative essay that answers the question: what three passions do you live for? This assignment will allow me to assess your essay writing skills you have developed and help me get to know you better.

FORMAT:

- 1) Your first paragraph must serve as an introduction to your topic including an engaging hook, topic sentence, a clear thesis and your 3 supportive arguments.
- 2) Your 2nd, 3rd and 4th paragraphs will act as the body of your essay, exploring your respective 3 passions on which you are writing. Remember your arguments must be organized in a specific order and include transitional sentences!
- 3) The final paragraph must serve as a conclusion. You will restate your 3 arguments and end with an insightful idea or statement.

TIPS:

- 🌀 Avoid being fairly general: I live for football, music and friends
- 🌀 You may be really specific in your thesis: I live for the New England Patriots, Rihanna and my best friend Jordan
- 🌀 Your essay should be approximately 300-500 words in length, should have a proper title, must adhere to the 5 paragraph MLA structure, revised for errors and must be double-spaced. It can be written in pen or typed.

	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
Ideas/Opinion/ Voice (6)	Student's ideas/opinions are extremely clear, directly answers the question posed and demonstrates a high level of insight.	Student's ideas/opinion are clear, answers the question posed and demonstrates a solid level of insight.	Student's ideas/opinion are somewhat unclear, partially answers the question posed and demonstrates limited insight.	Student's ideas/opinions are unclear, the question posed is not answered and demonstrates a very weak level of insight.
Body Paragraphs/ Explanation/ Support for Thesis (6)	Provides thorough support for the thesis. Body paragraphs are very well-developed.	Clear support provided for the thesis. Body paragraphs are developed.	Minimal support provided for the thesis. Body paragraphs are fairly underdeveloped.	Minimal to no support provided for your thesis. Body paragraphs are completely underdeveloped.
Paragraph Format/ Structure/ Organization (6)	Response reads very well, demonstrating commands of focus and organization.	Response reads well, demonstrating organization of information and expected structure.	Response reads somewhat well, some information is out of place. Writing tends to wander at times. Improvements in structure and organization are needed.	Response reads poorly, and information is not presented clearly. Response lacks structure and organization.
Style and Grammar (6)	Writing exhibits mastery of style and grammar.	Minimal number of errors.	Errors do not overly interfere with reader's understanding.	Errors interfere with reader's understanding.

Total:

/24

Feedback:

Description:

This is the prologue to Bertrand Russell's autobiographical essay *What I Have Lived For*

**What I Live For – Three Passions
Bertrand Russell**

Three passions, simple but overwhelmingly strong, have governed my life: the longing for love, the search for knowledge, and unbearable pity for the suffering of mankind. These passions, like great winds, have blown me hither and thither, in a wayward course, over a deep ocean of anguish, reaching to the very verge of despair.

I have sought love, first, because it brings ecstasy -- ecstasy so great that I would often have sacrificed all the rest of life for a few hours of this joy. I have sought it, next, because it relieves loneliness -- that terrible loneliness in which one shivering consciousness looks over the rim of the world into the cold unfathomable lifeless abyss. I have sought it, finally, because in the union of love I have seen, in a mystic miniature, the prefiguring vision of the heaven that saints and poets have imagined. This is what I sought, and though it might seem too good for human life, this is what -- at last -- I have found.

With equal passion I have sought knowledge. I have wished to understand the hearts of men. I have wished to know why the stars shine. And I have tried to apprehend the Pythagorean power by which number holds sway above the flux. A little of this, but not much, I have achieved.

Love and knowledge, so far as they were possible, led upward toward the heavens. But always pity brought me back to earth. Echoes of cries of pain reverberate in my heart. Children in famine, victims tortured by oppressors, helpless old people a hated burden to their sons, and the whole world of loneliness, poverty, and pain make a mockery of what human life should be. I long to alleviate the evil, but I cannot, and I too suffer.

This has been my life. I have found it worth living, and would gladly live it again if the chance were offered me.