

WRITING DEVELOPMENT

RULE #1: If anything I say on this page conflicts with what your teachers have told you, I am wrong, and they are right.

African Americans and Women in WWII

14. Narrative analysis I – narrative

To write a narrative, you must:

- Plan out the events/developments you intend to describe, in the logical order; these are the events for which you will ‘tell the story’, using subordinating conjunctions of time and sequence such as: ‘First’, ‘Next’, ‘After’, ‘Before’, ‘Later’, ‘Initially’, ‘At last’, ‘Also’, ‘In addition’, ‘Meanwhile’, ‘Simultaneously’, ‘Furthermore’.
- Provide some relevant ‘proving’ information about the event/development.
- Better essays will explain the importance/significance of the event/development; why was it a key event in the narrative?

Let’s say you are asked: “Write a narrative account of the achievements of Black Americans during WWII.”

Study the following timeline of dated moments from the webpage:

Date	Event Summary
1941	When A. Philip Randolph threatened a protest march in, Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802, outlawing racial discrimination in the war industry, and set up the Fair Employment Practices Committee (FEPC) to enforce it.
1942	The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) was founded, and organised its first sit-ins against segregated restaurants in 1943.
1944	The 761st Tank Battalion – the ‘black panthers’ – fought in the Battle of the Bulge.
1944	At Peleliu Island in the Pacific, the 17th SeeBee (Construction Brigade) company rescued wounded soldiers under fire, and picked up their rifles and fought back.
1944	Nearly 2 million Black workers were employed in war-production.
1944	The Supreme Court ruled that US trade unions had a duty of ‘fair representation’ of both Black and White workers.
1944	Irene Morgan, an African American woman, was arrested for refusing to move from the ‘white’ seating section of a Greyhound interstate bus.
Feb-Mar 1945	The 6888th predominantly Black battalion of the US Women's Army Corps, led by Major Charity Adams, travelled to Birmingham, England, and cleared a backlog of 4 million undelivered items of mail.

You will see that the timeline already provides: (a) the sequence of key events

- Think which subordinating conjunction of time/sequence you would use to introduce each development.
- Underline the ‘(b) proving information’ provided on the timeline.
- Use the information on the webpage to create a similar narrative list with proving information for the essay:

“Write a narrative account of the achievements of women during WWII.”

NOTE: this Writing Development exercise is only about writing a simple narrative; you will look at the ‘analysis’ side of writing a ‘narrative analysis’ essay in the Writing Development exercise #17 on Civil Rights 1945-65.