

Narrative Paper Example

Each member of a family enjoys his or her special moment in time on a balmy summer day on Cape Cod.

How did Patricia Polacco become a writer? A perfect companion to the classic *Thank You, Mr. Falker*, *The Art of Miss Chew*, and *Mr. Wayne's Masterpiece*, this book celebrates a teacher who inspired a young Patricia Polacco to become the writer and storyteller she is today. Trisha is nervous about being chosen for Miss Keller's writing class. "Killer Keller" demands that her students dazzle her with their writing, and rumor has it that she has never given an A. The rumors turn out to be all too true—there's just no pleasing Miss Keller. Then an unexpected loss leaves Trisha heartbroken. Thoughts of teachers and grades forgotten, she pours out her soul in a personal narrative. And when Miss Keller reads it, she tells Trisha, "You've given your words wings."

Awe and exhilaration--along with heartbreak and mordant wit--abound in *Lolita*, Nabokov's most famous and controversial novel, which tells the story of the aging Humbert Humbert's obsessive, devouring, and doomed passion for the nymphet Dolores Haze. *Lolita* is also the story of a hypercivilized European colliding with the cheerful barbarism of postwar America. Most of all, it is a meditation on love--love as outrage and hallucination, madness and transformation.

53 SHORT ESSAYS FOR BUSY PEOPLE . . . BY 49 AMAZING AUTHORS. Too tired to think? No time to read books? Zibby Owens gets it. Award-winning podcaster of *Moms Don't Have Time to Read Books* and mother of four (ages six to fourteen) compiled fifty-three essays by forty-nine authors to help the rest of us feel understood, inspired, and less alone. The authors, all previous guests on her podcast (go listen!), include fifteen New York Times bestselling authors, five national bestsellers, and twenty-nine award-winning/notable/critically acclaimed writers. The super short essays were inspired by a few other things moms don't have time to do: sleep, get sick, write, lose weight, and see friends. Read one a week and you'll finish the whole book in a year: accomplishment! Topics range from taking care of an aging grandmother, mourning the loss of a family member, battling insomnia, wrestling with body image, coping with chronic illness, navigating writer's block, the power of women's friendship, and more juicy stuff. You'll laugh, cry, think, and feel like you just had coffee with a close friend. If that best friend were a world-renowned author. Contributors include: Aimee Agresti, Esther Amini, Chandler Baker, Adrienne Bankert, Andrea Buchanan, Terri Cheney, Jeanine Cummins, Stephanie Danler, KJ Dell'Antonia, Lydia Fenet, Michael Frank, Elyssa Friedland, Melissa Gould, Nicola Harrison, Kristy Woodson Harvey, Joanna Hershon, Angela Himsel, Richie Jackson, Shelli Johannes, Lily King, Jean Kwok, Heather Land, Brooke Adams Law, Caroline Leavitt, Jenny Lee, Shannon Lee, Elizabeth Lesser, Gigi Levangie, Emily Liebert, Lynda Loigman, Abby Maslin, Sarah McColl, Jeanne McCulloch, Malcolm Mitchell, Arden Myrin, Carla Naumburg, Rex Ogle, Zibby Owens, Camille Pagán, Elizabeth Passarella, Allison Pataki, Lindsay Powers, Susie Orman Schnall, Susan Shapiro, Melissa T. Shultz, Claire Bidwell Smith, Rev. Lydia Sohn, Laura Tremaine, and Cecily von Ziegesar.

The Tell-Tale Heart

Othello

Anatomy of a Premise Line

Theorising Reading and Writing in Context

Essays

Explorations in Nonfiction Writing

"Just tell a story," the teacher said. "It will be fun." Yet the student stares at a blank screen, uncertain what to write, and it's far from a fun experience. The narrative essay -- a personal form of storytelling about true experiences -- requires the writer to abandon familiar tools such as topic sentences, thesis statements, and supporting authority. But this doesn't mean the writer should just type words until the pages are filled. Rambling freeform narratives are not what most writing instructors hope to see. There is a better method, and it can be found in this short booklet. This booklet explains everything the writer needs to generate a successful narrative essay in step-by-step fashion.

Starting with a story goal, proceeding through a timeline, and finishing with two targeted paragraphs, this booklet will turn a blank screen into a finished paper.

Table of Contents
How to Use This Booklet
What is a narrative essay?
Special Note Regarding Use of the Word "Narrative"
Assignment Analysis:
beginning, middle, end: outline the event on a timeline
Thesis: the Goal
Beginning: the Setup -Premise/Theme -Characters -Your point of view
Middle: Events on a timeline -Action -Dialogue -Description
A Special Note About Paragraphing
A Special Note About One Exception to the Timeline
A Special Note About the Second-to-Last Paragraph
End: the Resolution: how you changed/how things changed
Proofreading
Here's what students have said about this method: "This made it all seem really easy." "I thought I should just write about what happened. If I had done that, I would have left out some important things. Thanks for showing me what was missing!" "Whew! I tried this, and wrote my paper in record time!"

This is Volume 2. This companion volume is based on the instructional approach found in Volume 1. This second volume spotlights student examples, using these 7 easy steps, in writing narrative essays, essays explaining stories, and a persuasive essay. The students who wrote these essays experienced success in writing. Struggling students? They were! Looking forward in their continued success? They are! Celebrate each step of the way? We did! This instructional approach enables them, and many others, to feel positive as they make progress in developing their writing skills. Along with gaining confidence, students find renewed excitement in learning. With these 7 easy steps the words, "I can't write" turns into "Yes, I can!" This simplified way of writing can help all students in all educational settings.

Keywords for Children's Literature
NYU Press

A seemingly ordinary village participates in a yearly lottery to determine a sacrificial victim.

Liberating Scholarly Writing

The Writing Life

From Struggling Students to Successful Writers in 7 Easy Steps

Writers on Loving and Leaving New York

To Kill a Mockingbird

The Norton Field Guide to Writing

Provides information on stylistic aspects of research papers, theses, and dissertations, including sections on writing fundamentals, MLA documentation style, and copyright law

George Orwell set out 'to make political writing into an art', and to a wide extent this aim shaped the future of English literature - his descriptions of authoritarian regimes helped to form a new vocabulary that is fundamental to understanding totalitarianism. While 1984 and Animal Farm are amongst the most popular classic novels in the English language, this new series of Orwell's essays seeks to bring a wider selection of his writing on politics and literature to a new readership. In Politics and the English Language, the second in the Orwell's Essays series, Orwell takes aim at the language used in politics, which, he says, 'is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind'. In an age where the language used in politics is constantly under the microscope, Orwell's Politics and the English Language is just as relevant today, and gives the reader a vital understanding of the tactics at play. 'A writer who can - and must - be rediscovered with every age.' - Irish Times

Voted America's Best-Loved Novel in PBS's The Great American Read Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning masterwork of honor and injustice in the deep South-and the heroism of one man in the face of blind and violent hatred One of the most cherished stories of all time, To Kill a Mockingbird has been translated into more than forty languages, sold more than forty million copies worldwide, served as the basis for an enormously popular motion picture, and was voted one of the best novels of the twentieth century by librarians across the country. A gripping, heart-wrenching, and wholly remarkable tale of coming-of-age in a South poisoned by virulent prejudice, it views a world of great beauty and savage inequities through the eyes of a young girl, as her father-a crusading local lawyer-risks everything to defend a black man unjustly accused of a terrible crime.

Mrs. Louise Mallard, afflicted with a heart condition, reflects on the death of her husband from the safety of her locked room. Originally published in Vogue magazine, "The Story of an Hour" was retitled as "The Dream of an Hour," when it was published amid much controversy under its new title a year later in St. Louis Life. "The Story of an Hour" was adapted to film in The Joy That Kills by director Tina Rathbone, which was part of a PBS anthology called American Playhouse. HarperPerennial Classics brings great works of literature to life in digital format, upholding the highest standards in ebook production and celebrating reading in all its forms. Look for more titles in the HarperPerennial Classics collection to build your digital library.

A Step-by-Step Guide to Writing a Successful College Admissions Essay
The Wolf Leader by Alexandre Dumas - Delphi Classics (Illustrated)

Stop-Time

Wired for Story

The Lottery

Keywords for Children's Literature

From Roxane Gay to Leslie Jamison, thirty brilliant writers share their timeless stories about the everlasting magic—and occasional misery—of living in the Big Apple, in a new edition of the classic anthology. In the revised edition of this classic collection, thirty writers share their own stories of loving and leaving New York, capturing the mesmerizing allure the city has always had for writers, poets, and wandering spirits. Their essays often begin as love stories do, with the passion of something newly discovered: the crush of subway crowds, the streets filled with manic energy, and the sudden, unblinking certainty that this is the only place on Earth where one can become exactly who she is meant to be. They also share the grief that comes like a gut-punch, when the grand metropolis loses its magic and the pressures of New York's frenetic life wear thin for even the most dedicated dwellers. As friends move away, rents soar, and love—still—remains just out of reach, each writer's goodbye is singular and universal, just like New York itself.

Poe's preference for not naming his narrators is potent once again in "The Tell-Tale Heart", a story that is trying so hard to appear sane, but fails miserably in the end. With minute preparations, perfect calculations, and even more precise execution of the conceived gruesome act, the narrator successfully fulfills his purpose, only to be lost in a battle with his sanity and guilt afterwards. Backed by the numerous movie and theatrical adaptations, the story is considered one of Poe's most popular and critically acclaimed. Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849) was an American poet, author, and literary critic. Most famous for his poetry, short stories, and tales of the supernatural, mysterious, and macabre, he is also regarded as the inventor of the detective genre and a contributor to the emergence of science fiction, dark romanticism, and weird fiction. His most famous works include "The Raven" (1845), "The Black Cat" (1843), and "The Gold-Bug" (1843).

Writing an amazing college admission essay is easier than you think! So you're a high school senior given the task of writing a 650-word personal statement for your college application. Do you tell the story of your life, or a story from your life? Do you choose a single moment? If so, which one? The options seem endless. Lucky for you, they're not. College counselor Ethan Sawyer (aka The College Essay Guy) will show you that there are only four (really, four!) types of college admission essays. And all you have to do to figure out which type is best for you is answer two simple questions: 1. Have you experienced significant challenges in your life? 2. Do you know what you want to be or do in the future? With these questions providing the building blocks for your essay, Sawyer guides you through the rest of the process, from choosing a structure to revising your essay, and answers the big questions that have probably been keeping you up at night: How do I brag in a way that doesn't sound like bragging? and How do I make my essay, like, deep? Packed with tips, tricks, exercises, and sample essays from real students who got into their dream schools, College Essay Essentials is the only college essay guide to make this complicated process logical, simple, and (dare we say it?) a little bit fun.

Liza Long, the author of "I Am Adam Lanza's Mother"—as seen in the documentaries American Tragedy and HBO's A Dangerous Son—speaks out about mental illness. Like most of the nation, Liza Long spent December 14, 2012, mourning the victims of the Newtown shooting. As the mother of a child with a mental illness, however, she also wondered: "What if my son does that someday?" The emotional response she posted on her blog went viral, putting Long at the center of a passionate controversy. Now, she takes the next step. Powerful and shocking, The Price of Silence looks at how society stigmatizes mental illness—including in children—and the devastating societal cost. In the wake of repeated acts of mass violence, Long points the way forward.

Moms Don't Have Time to Have Kids

A Timeless Anthology

The Price of Silence

Suggestions to Medical Authors and A.M.A. Style Book

An Essay on the Pain of Playing Video Games

Flexible, easy to use, just enough detail? and now the number-one best seller. With just enough detail? and color-coded links that send students to more detail if they need it? this is the rhetoric that tells students what they need to know and resists the temptation to tell them everything there is to know. Designed for easy

reference ? with menus, directories, and a combined glossary/index. The Third Edition has new chapters on academic writing, choosing genres, writing online, and choosing media, as well as new attention to multimodal writing. The Norton Field Guide to Writing is available with a handbook, an anthology, or both ? and all versions are now available as low-cost ebooks.

Situated Literacies is a rich and varied collection of key writings from leading international scholars in the field of literacy. Each contribution, written in a clear, accessible style, makes the link between literacies in specific contexts and broader social practices. Detailed ethnographic studies of a wide variety of specific situations, all involving real texts and lived practices, are balanced with general claims about the nature of literacy. Contributors address a coherent set of issues: * the visual and material aspects of literacy * concepts of time and space in relation to literacy * the functions of literacies in shaping and sustaining identities in communities of practice * the relationship between texts and the practices associated with their use the role of discourse analysis on literacy studies These studies, along with a foreword by Denny Taylor, make a timely and important contribution to literacy theory and suggest directions for the further development of the field. *Situated Literacies* is essential reading for anyone involved in literary education. Maia Wojciechowska's 1965 Newbery Medal winner about a young boy struggling with his father's legacy. *Manolo* was only three when his father, the great bullfighter Juan Olivar, died. But Juan is never far from Manolo's consciousness--how could he be, with the entire town of Arcangel waiting for the day Manolo will fulfill his father's legacy? But Manolo has a secret he dares to share with no one--he is a coward, without *afición*, the love of the sport that enables a bullfighter to rise above his fear and face a raging bull. As the day when he must enter the ring approaches, Manolo finds himself questioning which requires more courage: to follow in his father's legendary footsteps or to pursue his own destiny?

WINNER OF THE 2007 CHLA BOOK AWARD! Children's literature has transcended linguistic and cultural borders since books and magazines for young readers were first produced, with popular books translated throughout the world. Emer O'Sullivan traces the history of comparative children's literature studies, from the enthusiastic internationalism of the post-war period – which set out from the idea of a supra-national world republic of childhood – to modern comparative criticism. Drawing on the scholarship and children's literature of many cultures and languages, she outlines the constituent areas that structure the field, including contact and transfer studies, intertextuality studies, intermediality studies and image studies. In doing so, she provides the first comprehensive overview of this exciting new research area. *Comparative Children's Literature* also links the fields of narratology and translation studies, to develop an original and highly valuable communicative model of translation. Taking in issues of children's 'classics', the canon and world literature for children, *Comparative Children's Literature* reveals that this branch of literature is not as genuinely international as it is often fondly assumed to be and is essential reading for those interested in the consequences of globalization on children's literature and culture.

Comparative Children's Literature

An A From Miss Keller

Writing to Describe

A Mom's Perspective on Mental Illness

Theoretical Principles and Implementation

The Art of Failure

"This guide reveals how writers can take advantage of the brain's hard-wired responses to story to captivate their readers' minds through each plot element"--Provided by publisher.

The authors of *E-Z Anatomy and Physiology* present an extensive review of the human body's structural framework and describe how it functions. Each of 23 chapters covers a separate system of the body and includes review questions with answers. The book is filled with charts, diagrams and instructive line illustrations. Books in Barron's new E-Z series are enhanced and updated editions of Barron's older, highly popular Easy Way books. New cover designs reflect the brand's new interior layouts, which feature extensive two-color treatment, a fresh, modern typeface, more graphic material than ever. Charts, graphs, diagrams, line illustrations, and where appropriate, amusing cartoons help make learning E-Z in a variety of subjects. Barron's E-Z

books are self-teaching manuals focused to improve students' grades in skill levels that range between senior high school and college-101 standards.

This is a book on how to read the essay, one that demonstrates how reading is inextricably tied to the art of writing. It aims to treat the essay with the close attention that has been given to literary genres, and in doing so it suggests the beauty and depth of the form as a whole. At once personal appreciations and acute critical assessments, the pieces collected here broaden our perspective on the essay as a major literary art, tracing its history from William Hazlitt to Joan Didion.

The study of children's literature and culture has been experiencing a renaissance, with vital new work proliferating across many areas of interest. Mapping this vibrant scholarship, this work presents 49 original essays on the essential terms and concepts of the field with scope, clarity, and interdisciplinary play between concepts. From Aesthetics to Young Adult, a multidisciplinary cast of scholars explores the vocabulary central to the study of children's literature. Following the growth of his or her word, each author traces its branching uses and meanings, often into unfamiliar disciplinary territories. Award-winning novelist Philip Pullman writes about Intentionality, Education expert Margaret Meek Spencer addresses Reading, literary scholar Peter Hunt historicizes Children's Literature, Psychologist Hugh Crago examines Story, librarian and founder of the influential Child Lit litserve Michael Joseph investigates Liminality. In the spirit of Raymond Williams' seminal Keywords, this book is a snapshot of a vocabulary of children's literature that is changing, expanding, and ever unfinished.

Narrative and Argument

Politics and the English Language

Shadow of a Bull

The Power of Personal Narrative

How to Master Premise and Story Development for Writing Success

Lolita

First published in 1967, Stop-Time was immediately recognized as a masterpiece of modern American autobiography, a brilliant portrayal of one boy's passage from childhood to adolescence and beyond. Here is Frank Conroy's wry, sad, beautiful tale of life on the road; of odd jobs and lost friendships, brutal schools and first loves; of a father's early death and a son's exhilarating escape into manhood. "This eBook features 501 sample writing prompts that are designed to help you improve your writing and gain the necessary writing skills needed to ace essay exams. Build your essay-writing confidence fast with 501 Writing Prompts!" --

The "dazzling" and essential portrayal of 1960s America from the author of South and West and The Year of Magical Thinking (The New York Times). Capturing the tumultuous landscape of the United States, and in particular California, during a pivotal era of social change, the first work of nonfiction from one of American literature's most distinctive prose stylists is a modern classic. In twenty razor-sharp essays that redefined the art of journalism, National Book

Award-winning author Joan Didion reports on a society gripped by a deep generational divide, from the "misplaced children" dropping acid in San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury district to Hollywood legend John Wayne filming his first picture after a bout with cancer. She paints indelible portraits of reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes and folk singer Joan Baez, "a personality before she was entirely a person," and takes readers on eye-opening journeys to Death Valley, Hawaii,

and Las Vegas, "the most extreme and allegorical of American settlements." First published in 1968, Slouching Towards Bethlehem has been heralded by the New York Times Book Review as "a rare display of some of the best prose written today in this country" and named to Time magazine's list of the one hundred best and most influential nonfiction books. It is the definitive account of a terrifying and transformative decade in American history whose discordant reverberations continue to sound a half-century later. This book provides an alternative to the more conventional modes of qualitative and quantitative inquiry currently used in professional training programs, particularly in education. It features a very accessible presentation that combines application, rationale, critique, and inspiration—and is itself an example of this kind of writing. It teaches students how to use personal writing in order to analyze, explicate, and advance their ideas. And it encourages minority students, women, and others to find and express their authentic voices by teaching them to use their own lives as primary resources for their scholarship.

Owl Moon

Understanding the Essay

Slouching Towards Bethlehem

Grade K

A Moment in Time

College Essay Essentials

On a winter's night under a full moon, a father and daughter trek into the woods to see the Great Horned Owl.

Offers examples that illustrate descriptive writing and tips for brainstorming, writing the first draft, checking and refining, and sharing written work.

Enter RODERIGO and IAGORODERIGOTush! never tell me; I take it much unkindly That thou, Iago, who hast had my purse As if the strings were thine, shouldst know of this.IAGO'Sblood, but you will not hear me: If ever I did dream of such a matter, Abhor me.RODERIGOThou told'st me thou didst hold him in thy hate.IAGODespise me, if I do not. Three great ones of the city, In personal suit to make me his lieutenant, Off-capp'd to him: and, by the faith of man, I know my price, I am worth no worse a place: But he; as loving his own pride and purposes, Evades them, with a bombast circumstance Horribly stuff'd with epithets of war; And, in conclusion, Nonsuits my mediators; for, 'Certes, ' says he, 'I have already chose my officer.' And what was he? Forsooth, a great arithmetician, One Michael Cassio, a Florentine, A fellow almost damn'd in a fair wife; That never set a squadron in the field, Nor the division of a battle knows More than a spinster; unless the bookish theoretic, Wherein the toged consuls can propose As masterly as he: mere prattle, without practise, Is all his soldiership. But he, sir, had the election: And I, of whom his eyes had seen the proof At Rhodes, at Cyprus and on other grounds Christian and

heathen, must be be-lee'd and calm'd By debtor and creditor: this counter-caster, He, in good time, must his lieutenant be, And I-God bless the mark!-his Moorship's ancient

This eBook features the unabridged text of 'The Wolf Leader' from the bestselling edition of 'The Collected Works of Alexandre Dumas'. Having established their name as the leading publisher of classic literature and art, Delphi Classics produce publications that are individually crafted with superior formatting, while introducing many rare texts for the first time in digital print. The Delphi Classics edition of Dumas includes original annotations and illustrations relating to the life and works of the author, as well as individual tables of contents, allowing you to navigate eBooks quickly and easily. eBook features: * The complete unabridged text of 'The Wolf Leader' * Beautifully illustrated with images related to Dumas's works * Individual contents table, allowing easy navigation around the eBook * Excellent formatting of the text Please visit www.delphiclassics.com to learn more about our wide range of titles

Goodbye to All That (Revised Edition)

With a Guide to Abbreviation of Bibliographic References ; for the Guidance of Authors, Editors, Compositors, and Proofreaders

Representation and Management of Narrative Information

The Writer's Guide to Using Brain Science to Hook Readers from the Very First Sentence

A+ Guide to Narrative Essays

Short Story

In this major theoretical statement, the author offers a new and provocative interpretation of the institutional transformations associated with modernity. We do not as yet, he argues, live in a post-modern world. Rather the distinctive characteristics of our major social institutions in the closing period of the twentieth century express the emergence of a period of 'high modernity,' in which prior trends are radicalised rather than undermined. A post-modern social universe may eventually come into being, but this as yet lies 'on the other side' of the forms of social and cultural organization which currently dominate world history. In developing an account of the nature of modernity, Giddens concentrates upon analyzing the intersections between trust and risk, and security and danger, in the modern world. Both the trust mechanisms associated with modernity and the distinctive 'risk profile' it produces, he argues, are distinctively different from those characteristic of pre-modern social orders. This book build upon the author's previous theoretical writings, and will be of fundamental interest to anyone concerned with Gidden's overall project. However, the work covers issues which the author has not previously analyzed and extends the scope of his work into areas of pressing practical concern. This book will be essential reading for second

year undergraduates and above in sociology, politics, philosophy, and cultural studies.

A big amount of important, 'economically relevant' information, is buried within the huge mass of multimedia documents that correspond to some form of 'narrative' description. Due to the ubiquity of these 'narrative' resources, being able to represent in a general, accurate, and effective way their semantic content – i.e., their key 'meaning' – is then both conceptually relevant and economically important. In this book, we present the main properties of NKRL ('Narrative Knowledge Representation Language'), a language expressly designed for representing, in a standardised way, the 'meaning' of complex multimedia narrative documents. NKRL is a fully implemented language/environment. The software exists in two versions, an ORACLE-supported version and a file-oriented one. Written from a multidisciplinary perspective, this exhaustive description of NKRL and of the associated knowledge representation principles will be an invaluable source of reference for practitioners, researchers, and graduates.

If a story is going to fail, it will do so first at the premise level. **Anatomy of a Premise Line: How to Master Premise and Story Development for Writing Success** is the only book of its kind to identify a seven-step development process that can be repeated and applied to any story idea. This process will save you time, money, and potentially months of wasted writing. So whether you are trying to write a feature screenplay, develop a television pilot, or just trying to figure out your next story move as a writer, this book gives you the tools you need to know which ideas are worth pursuing. In addition to the 7-step premise development tool, **Anatomy of a Premise Line** also presents a premise and idea testing methodology that can be used to test any developed premise line. Customized exercises and worksheets are included to facilitate knowledge transfer, so that by the end of the book, you will have a fully developed premise line, log line, tagline, and a completed premise-testing checklist. Here is some of what you will learn inside: Ways to determine whether or not your story is a good fit for print or screen Case studies and hands-on worksheets to help you learn by participating in the process Tips on how to effectively work through writer's block A companion website (www.routledge.com/cw/lyons) with additional worksheets, videos, and interactive tools to help you learn the basics of perfecting a killer premise line

"For nonwriters, it is a glimpse into the trials and satisfactions of a life spent with words. For writers, it is a warm, rambling, conversation with a stimulating and extraordinarily talented colleague." — Chicago Tribune From Pulitzer Prize-winning Annie Dillard, a collection that illuminates the dedication and daring that characterizes a writer's life. In these short

essays, Annie Dillard—the author of *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* and *An American Childhood*—illuminates the dedication, absurdity, and daring that characterize the existence of a writer. A moving account of Dillard's own experiences while writing her works, *The Writing Life* offers deep insight into one of the most mysterious professions.

Situated Literacies

EZ Anatomy and Physiology

501 Writing Prompts

The Consequences of Modernity

The Story Of An Hour

A Memoir

An exploration of why we play video games despite the fact that we are almost certain to feel unhappy when we fail at them. We may think of video games as being "fun," but in *The Art of Failure*, Jesper Juul claims that this is almost entirely mistaken. When we play video games, our facial expressions are rarely those of happiness or bliss. Instead, we frown, grimace, and shout in frustration as we lose, or die, or fail to advance to the next level. Humans may have a fundamental desire to succeed and feel competent, but game players choose to engage in an activity in which they are nearly certain to fail and feel incompetent. So why do we play video games even though they make us unhappy? Juul examines this paradox. In video games, as in tragic works of art, literature, theater, and cinema, it seems that we want to experience unpleasantness even if we also dislike it. Reader or audience reaction to tragedy is often explained as catharsis, as a purging of negative emotions. But, Juul points out, this doesn't seem to be the case for video game players. Games do not purge us of unpleasant emotions; they produce them in the first place. What, then, does failure in video game playing do? Juul argues that failure in a game is unique in that when you fail in a game, you (not a character) are in some way inadequate. Yet games also motivate us to play more, in order to escape that inadequacy, and the feeling of escaping failure (often by improving skills) is a central enjoyment of games. Games, writes Juul, are the art of failure: the singular art form that sets us up for failure and allows us to experience it and experiment with it. *The Art of Failure* is essential reading for anyone interested in video games, whether as entertainment, art, or education.

Notes of a Native Son

MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing