

## To plan your ELA PSSA narrative essay, think *inside* the boxes!

**Sample narrative:** Think about a time when someone did something to help others. This person could be someone you know or a character you have read about. Think about what this person did to help others. Consider what happened before, while, and after this person helped others. Write a story for your teacher about someone helping others. Consider story elements (for example, character, setting, and plot) as you develop your narrative.

### NARRATIVE ESSAY: ELEMENTS

Start a new paragraph when there is a change in time, place, speaker, or action.

The most exciting part of the story;  
When we learn the outcome

Climax

Events leading  
to the end of the  
story

Where the  
main character  
faces a series  
of conflicts

Rising  
Action

Falling  
Action

Resolution

End of the story

Exposition

Beginning of the  
story where  
characters and  
setting are  
introduced

- Immediately jump into the action

## Plot Diagram

# The Dirty Dozen

## AVOID... Errors in Academic Form

1. The pronoun *I* including but not limited to: “I feel,” “I believe,” “I think”
2. The pronoun *you* in any shape or form
3. Contractions
4. Questions???? and Exclamations!!!!
5. Absolutes: *never* or *always*
6. “In my opinion”
7. “Like I said before”
8. “I will tell you” or “This is about”
9. “Due to the fact of”
10. “To start with” or “To begin with”
11. “Another example/reason/thing is that”
12. “The end”