Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**American Studies English**

**Native American Literature**

**Creative Essay: Oral Tradition Essay**

As we have learned from our study of Native American literature, oral tradition is a powerful means of communication. The beauty of oral tradition is that it allows stories to pass from generation to generation. For this assignment, you will continue the spirit of the oral tradition by retelling a story from your childhood. Consider selecting a story that reflects your character and values.

Your task is to conduct an interview with a parent, family member, or any other adult who has known you for some time. In the interview you will be asking him or her to relate a story from your childhood, which you will then retell for this essay assignment.

Remember to ask about:

* the course of events surrounding the story (background, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution)
* the setting of the story
* sensory details relating to the story (sights, sounds, smells, tastes, etc.)
* other people involved in the story

Brainstorming:

Who are some people that you could ask to tell you a story?

Is there a particular story that you would like to tell?

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

American Studies English

Native American Literature

Creative Essay: Oral Tradition Essay

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| CATEGORY | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Introduction | The introduction is inviting. It grabs the reader's attention and compels him/her to read further. Engaging lead/hook. | The introduction clearly states the main topic and previews the structure of the paper, but is not particularly inviting to the reader. | The introduction states the main topic, but does not adequately preview the structure of the paper nor is it particularly inviting to the reader. | There is no clear introduction of the main topic or structure of the paper. |
| Content | There is one clear, well-focused main idea. Author uses dialogue, action, and description to “show not tell” the story. | Main idea is clear but the supporting information is general. More detail needed to "show not tell" the story. | Main idea is somewhat clear but there is a need for more supporting information. Author mostly tells the story instead of showing it. | The main idea is not clear. There is a seemingly random collection of information. |
| Organization | Details are placed in a logical order and the way they are presented effectively keeps the interest of the reader. | Details are placed in a logical order, but the way in which they are presented/introduced sometimes makes the writing less interesting. | Some details are not in a logical or expected order, and this distracts the reader. | Many details are not in a logical or expected order. There is little sense that the writing is organized. |
| Spelling, Grammar, and Mechanics | There are no mistakes in spelling, grammar, or mechanics. | There are 1-2 mistakes in spelling, grammar, or mechanics. | There are 3-4 mistakes in spelling, grammar, or mechanics. | There are numerous mistakes in spelling, grammar, or mechanics. |
| MLA Format and Required Components of the Writing Process | Essay is in proper MLA format and all components of the writing process are included. | 1-2 errors in MLA format, some elements of the writing process may be missing. | 3-4 mistakes in MLA format, many elements of the writing process are missing. | Numerous mistakes in MLA format. Elements of the writing process are not included. |