Narrative Essay Outline

1. In 20 words or less, explain the one event that this essay will focus on:
2. Choose a “Lead” style from the sheet entitled ‘Narrative Leads’. Decide whether ACTION, DIALOGUE, WHO/WHAY/WHEN or REACTION best suit the story you want to tell.
3. What are the details that count your story? Remember, don’t give unnecessary details. Choose only details that drive the story forward. Use point form to outline the story’s development. Highlight the climax of your essay.
4. Are there areas where you will use humor in your essay? Explain.
5. Are there any areas where you can connect this story with something you’ve read / seen before in popular media? (Allusion).
6. A strong narrative essay has a clear meaning. What is the meaning of your story? Why do you decide to share this story with others?
7. As you write your narrative, SHOW, don’t TELL your readers what happens and use only meaningful anecdotal dialogue. What is your plan of attack for accomplishing this?
8. Remember – write from the heart, a place of authenticity, about something that is important to you. The best essays always invoke an emotional response from the reader. Any final thoughts?