

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.

America enters the War

12. Narrative analysis

In the Writing Development exercise #4, we looked at the conjunctions of time, and how they can be used to describe a sequence/ simple narrative, viz.:

- a) Plan out the sequence of events/developments you intend to describe, in their best logical order.
- b) Use that list to 'tell the story', using the most appropriate conjunctions of time and sequence such as: 'First', 'Next', 'After', 'Before', 'Later', 'Initially', 'At last', 'Also', 'In addition', 'Meanwhile', 'Simultaneously', 'Furthermore'.
- c) Provide some relevant information about each event/development.

This, however, will not produce a GCSE-level 'narrative analysis'. To do that, you need also to:

- a) Explain the importance/significance in the developing story of each event/development; why was it a key event in the narrative?
- b) Provide 'proving evidence' (as you learned in exercise #6) which establishes that point.

Let's say you have to write the essay: "Write an account of how America came to enter the First World War."

1. Using the timeline on [the webpage](#), which lists the sequence of events, complete the following essay plan:

Conjunction	Event/development	Explain the importance/significance	Proving information
The first	May 1916: The British ocean liner <i>Lusitania</i> was sunk – 128 Americans killed.	Caused outrage → first steps to a diplomatic break with Germany	Wilson warned Germany in three separate notes that sinkings of US ships would be regarded as 'deliberately unfriendly'.
Next,	May 1916:	First signs that the American public were prepared to go to war	1,200 men voluntarily attend the summer military training camp
Then,	October 1915:
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.....
Finally,	March 1917:

2. Using the techniques you learned in Ex.10 (turning points into a paragraph) and Ex.11 (the structure of a paragraph), turn the plan/grid into an essay:

'Write an account of how America came to enter the First World War.'