

# PERSONAL NARRATIVE/COLLEGE ESSAY SAMPLES

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

## PROFESSIONAL EXAMPLE #1

Dishing Dirt  
By Emily White

The day I hear the rumor I am 14 years old, enclosed in a bathroom stall. Its walls are light blue, exactly the color of mold. Through a crack in its door, I can see three girls enter: heavy metal girls with tremendous eyelashes. They stand in front of the mirror, speaking urgently:

"Did you hear about H?" one of them says. "I hear she did it with Mitch and all his friends, like 12 guys at once!"

"Twelve guys?" says another. "She is disgusting!"

The last chimes in. "Oh, my God, she is such a slut!" she says, drawing out the last word for effect.

From my vantage point, I can see their faces in the mirror as they talk; the way their eyes open wide in amazement as they contemplate the horrors of what this girl has done. I'm thrilled by their outrage. When they finally leave the bathroom, I emerge, reeling with what I've just heard. Twelve guys. Impossible. So impossible I believe it utterly.

I have seen the girl they're talking about. She's dark and wanly, with an air of mystery about her that the kids in the hallway assume is sex. She is usually alone, but she always acts as if she's on her way somewhere, as if she's late. I'd never admit it in school, but I'm drawn to her. Everyone looks at her, while I'm a gloomy, invisible girl with a maximum of three friends, a girl whose name nobody can remember. Beer, parties and kisses are remote. I'm a Save the Whales activist, so antisocial I've convinced myself that whales are smarter than people.

But that day eavesdropping in the bathroom, I feel inadvertently included. As I listen to the girls talking in the mirror, my heart starts to race. The scandal works on me like a stimulant. Obviously the Night of 12 Boys is an event of vast importance, and the urgency in the girls' voices momentarily eclipses anything I've felt for H. in the past. Emerging from the stall, I know what I need to do: pass the rumor on.

Out in the hallway, it's lunchtime, and the three girls I usually eat with sit in a circle in our usual spot, the gritty linoleum floor outside the science classroom. They're talking in a bored way about homework assignments and last night's television shows. I sit down with them and say with gravity, "Guess what I just heard?" Immediately they all stop talking and listen to me - the violin prodigy, the knitting girl and the nervous girl who talks relentlessly. They're captives of the information I hold, which I offer to them like a wise man offering gifts: "H. did it with 12 guys at once!" Like the girls in the restroom, my lunch mates are shocked. "Are you kidding? Hwwwww."

Over the next few years, kids tell all kinds of wild stories about H.'s exploits. Usually the stories have to do with her and a crowd of boys; the boys multiply exponentially while she remains alone. In my mind, I imagine her in the backs of cars, maybe with the windows rolled down and her hair flying. I

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### **Table of Contents Personal Narrative Essay Samples**

1. Understanding the eBook Personal Narrative Essay Samples
  - The Rise of Digital Reading Personal Narrative Essay Samples
  - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Personal Narrative Essay Samples
  - Exploring Different Genres
  - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
  - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
  - Popular eBook Platforms
  - Features to Look for in an eBook Personal Narrative Essay Samples
  - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Personal Narrative Essay Samples
  - Personalized Recommendations
  - Personal Narrative Essay Samples User Reviews and Ratings
  - Personal Narrative Essay Samples and Bestseller Lists

5. Accessing Personal Narrative Essay Samples Free and Paid eBooks
  - Personal Narrative Essay Samples Public Domain eBooks
  - Personal Narrative Essay Samples eBook Subscription Services
  - Personal Narrative Essay Samples Budget-Friendly Options
6. Navigating Personal Narrative Essay Samples eBook Formats
  - ePUB, PDF, MOBI, and More
  - Personal Narrative Essay Samples Compatibility with Devices
  - Personal Narrative Essay Samples Enhanced eBook Features
7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
  - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Personal Narrative Essay Samples
  - Highlighting and Note-Taking Personal Narrative Essay Samples
  - Interactive Elements Personal Narrative Essay Samples
8. Staying Engaged with Personal Narrative Essay Samples
  - Joining Online Reading Communities
  - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
  - Following Authors and Publishers Personal Narrative Essay Samples
9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Personal Narrative Essay Samples
  - Benefits of a Digital Library
  - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Personal Narrative Essay Samples
10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
  - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
  - Minimizing Distractions
  - Managing Screen Time
11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Personal Narrative Essay Samples
  - Setting Reading Goals Personal Narrative Essay Samples
  - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Personal Narrative Essay Samples
  - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Personal Narrative Essay Samples
  - Distinguishing Credible Sources
13. Promoting Lifelong Learning

- Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
- Exploring Educational eBooks

14. Embracing eBook Trends

- Integration of Multimedia Elements
- Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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