

Narrative Project Writing Template

CORE THEMES

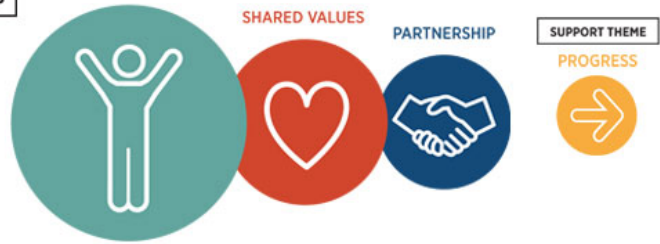
INDEPENDENCE

SHARED VALUES

PARTNERSHIP

SUPPORT THEME

PROGRESS



Questions to Ask When Researching Writing Assignments

1. What are the benefits, long-term possibilities or real changes realized by those involved in this program?

Lead with building independence as the purpose of development programs
Emphasize self-sufficiency instead of invoking pity or dependency

2. What common values can you identify between the individuals involved in this program and your audience?

Describe people in terms of their hopes and values in order to create empathy
Highlight feelings to which all people can relate (i.e. hope, pride, dignity, energy, determination, persistence)

3. How are the local populations actively involved in the project and contributing their own expertise and effort?

Focus on partnerships in all aspects of development programs and how each player actively contributes
Use examples and metaphors to help your audience picture how people and countries work together

4. What is the story of real and emotionally inspiring change that makes this progress matter?

Don't lead with progress. Provide examples of progress as supporting information, after the other themes
Present problems as preventable and solvable to show that progress is possible

Questions to Ask Before Publishing Writing Assignments

Reviewing this, do I:



Sense real change is happening? That this is an investment with greater returns?
→ If not, what is the change that is happening? Why is this program worth it?



Feel powerful and excited? Neutral? Disheartened?
→ If neutral or disheartened, what relatable values for humanity can be infused?
Hope, determination, tenacity, persistence, dignity, opportunity?



Perceive the local populations as capable and contributing humans?
→ If not, what beyond passive charity is happening? Is there sharing of knowledge
and expertise, effort, joint forces, or other active contribution?