

Writing a Personal Essay : Structure

A personal essay usually contains these four parts:

HOOK:

SET-UP:

ZOOM-IN (Narrative) :

ZOOM-OUT (Reflection) :

As you read [Annie Dillard's short essay "The Chase"](#), think about these four elements and try to label where each occurs.

1) What is Dillard's purpose in telling this story? What does she want you to feel or understand?

2) Now apply this to your own memoir. What is your purpose? What do you want the reader to feel or understand from your story?