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The American Revolution: Fairfield Case Study
Creating Historical Narrative Accounts

Guiding Question:
What were the social, economic, and cultural impacts of the American Revolution and the
Burning of Fairfield on the citizens of the town?

Historical narratives are stories about main characters, events, and ideas from a particular time
period. They can be written in first or third person. These narratives are based on historical facts,
but the information is woven into a story in a way that personalizes history.

Your Tasks

☐ You will write a purposeful historical narrative account geared toward a specific audience
that incorporates many facts about the American Revolution and the *Burning of Fairfield*.
☐ You will develop a rich character identity for your protagonist and adhere to the guidelines
for story development explained in this assignment sheet.
☐ You will be evaluated according to the *Historical Narrative Rubric*.
☐ You will share your completed narrative as part of a literature circle commemorating the
American Revolution and the *Burning of Fairfield*.

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1

Determining the Audience and Purpose

1. What will be the purpose of your narrative account?

The purpose of this narrative account is to (check all that apply):

- ☐ Inform
- ☐ Persuade
- ☐ Entertain
- ☐ Explain
- ☐ Narrate a story as an eyewitness to a historical event
- ☐ Describe a historical event from a character's point of view
- ☐ Scare/Shock

2. Who does the purpose of the narrative account serve?

The intended audience is (check all that apply):

- ☐ Everyone
- ☐ Elementary School Students
- ☐ Middle School Students
- ☐ High School Student
- ☐ College Student
- ☐ Graduate Students
- ☐ Any adult
- ☐ Politicians/Religious Figures
- ☐ My Peers

3. How much does the audience know about the Revolution and the *Burning of Fairfield*?

The intended audience is:

- ☐ Unfamiliar
- ☐ Somewhat familiar
- ☐ Very familiar

Adapted from:

Barlow, M.M. and Francis, M.L. "Rubric for Writing a Narrative Account". Teaching Writing Genres Across the Curriculum: Strategies for Middle School Teachers. Ed. S.L. Pasquarelli. Greenwich, CT: Information Age Publishing, 2006. 25.

Elements of a Narrative Account for History

- **Lead**: The story has a lead/hook to attract the reader to read on.

- **Story Structure**: The story is written in a factual/historical context that has a setting, characters, and events that lead up to a climax and a strong conclusion.

- **Organization**: The story is arranged clearly with a beginning, middle, and end.

- **Storyline**: The story is clear and easy to follow while incorporating dialogue and suspense.

- **Historical Content**: The historical content is accurate and incorporated smoothly into the story.

- **Author's Style/Point of View**: The story is written through the strong voice of the narrator, in first or third person, and using descriptive language to convey the historical time period.

- **Conclusion**: The story ends through some sort of resolution of the conflict.

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Historical Narrative Rubric

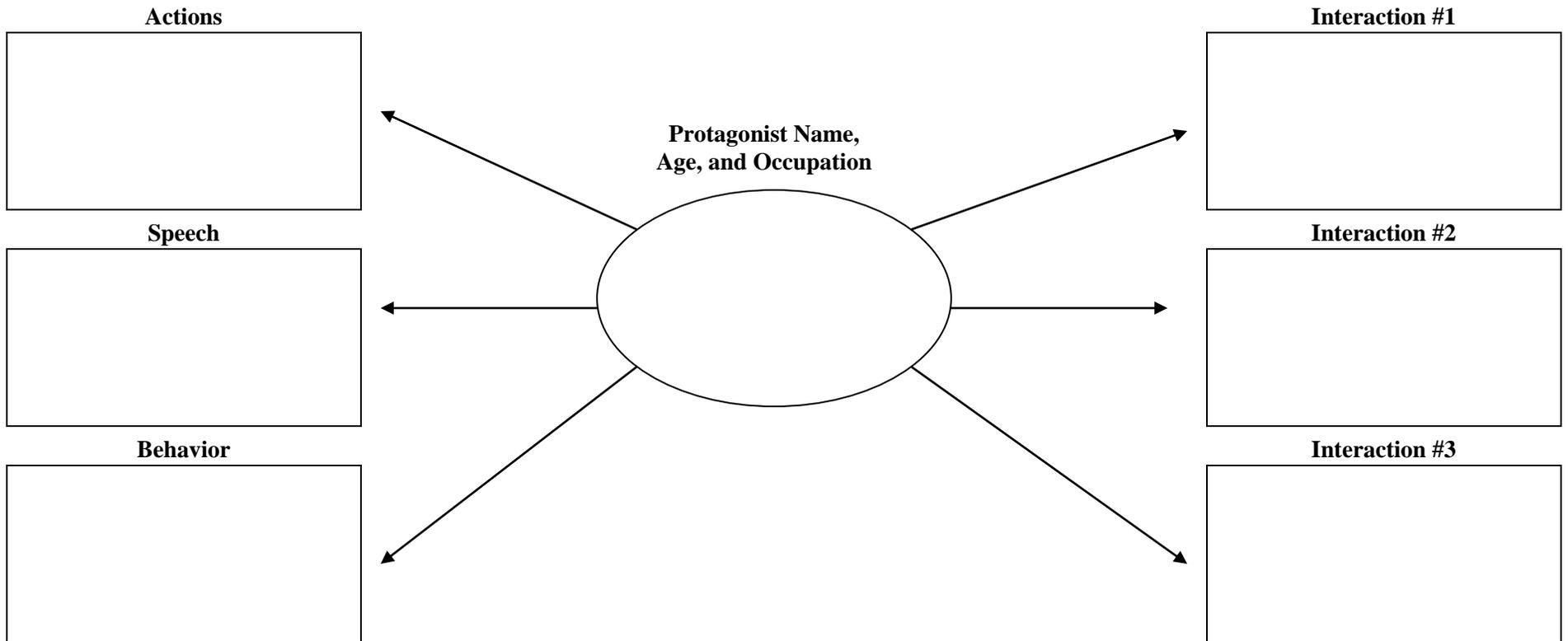| Feature	Distinguished	Proficient	Developing	Beginning
Focus	• Subject and unifying event clear and maintained • Fully engages reader with an interesting introduction that makes the reader connect with the story and the character • Establishes clear rising action, climax, and falling action	• Subject and unifying event maintained • Adequately engages reader with an interesting introduction that makes the reader connect with the story and the character • Establishes a rising action, climax, and falling action	• Subject and unifying event may require the reader to make inferences • Attempts to engage reader with an introduction that makes the reader connect with the story and the character • Rising action, climax, and falling action are underdeveloped	• Subject and narrative events are unclear • Little attempt to engage reader with an introduction that provides context for the narrative • Rising action, climax, and falling action may be insufficient to determine sequence of events
Elaboration	• All elements of plot are elaborated with specific detail • Reader can clearly follow conflict and resolution	• Most elements of plot are elaborated with specific detail • Reader can adequately follow conflict and resolution	• Elements of plot require further elaboration with specific detail • Reader must infer conflict and resolution	• The plot is difficult to follow or understand and requires further development • Conflict and resolution lack clarity or are non-existent
Organization	• Each element of narrative is appropriately paragraphed and effectively developed • Coherence and cohesion demonstrated through appropriate use of writing devices (ex: transitions) • Varied sentence structure	• Most elements of narrative are appropriately paragraphed and developed • Coherence and cohesion demonstrated though not always appropriately • Some varied sentence structure	• Narrative is paragraphed though lacks significant development • Inappropriate ordering of events and/or use of writing devices (ex: transitions) • Information is presented in a simplistic way	• There is little to no organization present • Ideas are difficult to follow • Little attempt to use effective writing devices (ex: transitions)
Writing Conventions	• Demonstrates mastery of writing mechanics including punctuation, spelling, and grammar	• Writing mechanics including punctuation, spelling, and grammar is evident are evident though not at a mastery level	• Though proofreading was attempted, there are several errors in punctuation, spelling, and grammar	• Shows little to no evidence of proofreading, with many errors in punctuation, spelling, and grammar

Creating Protagonists for Narrative Accounts

The protagonist is the main character in a story. The protagonist experiences conflict as caused by the antagonist. The antagonist can be another character or an event. Use this graphic organizer to create a profile for your protagonist.
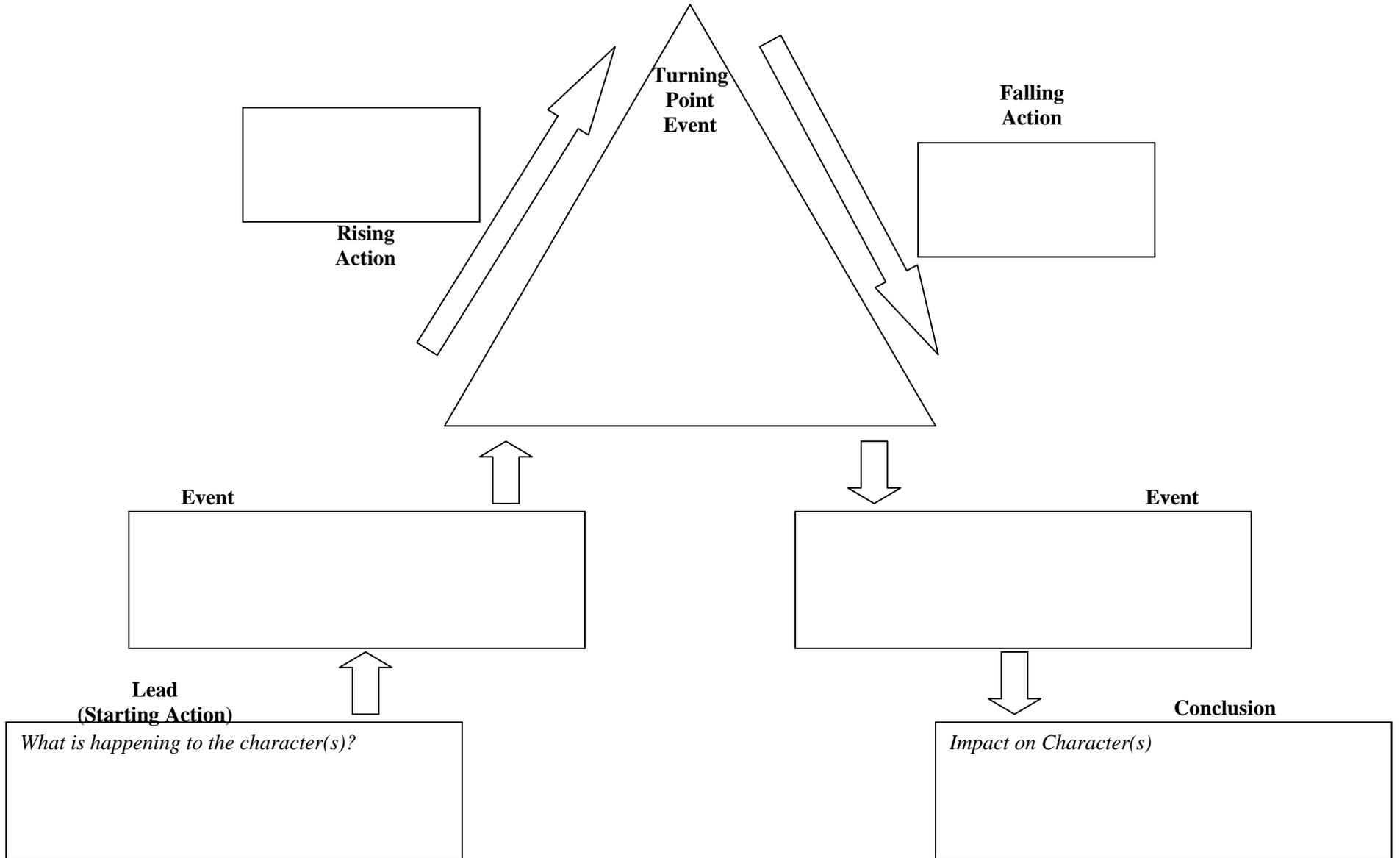
- **Physical Appearance**: What does the character look like?
- **Actions, Speech, and Behavior**: What does the character do or say? How does the character behave?
- **Interactions**: How does the character interact with or react to other characters in the story?

Actions

Interaction #1

Protagonist Name, Age, and Occupation

Speech

Interaction #2

Behavior

Interaction #3

Historical Narrative Plot Map

Turning Point Event

Rising Action

Falling Action

Event

Event

Lead (Starting Action)

What is happening to the character(s)?

Conclusion

Impact on Character(s)

Characters: _____

_____

Time: _____   Place: _____