

## Lesson 9: Writing Cooperative Narratives

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What's on for today and why: We're heading to the computer labs today to do some more writing. This time though we will be writing single person narratives with multiple authors. This should give the students some more writing practice, but also require them to try and find the character's voice because they will be writing about different characters.

What to do:

- 1) Have each student sit at a computer and begin writing a personal narrative. They can be anyone they want to be, doing anything they want to do (please keep it clean). They will each write for about 10 minutes and then move on to the next computer and pick up where the last person left off. Distribute handout #4 to the students so that they can have the instructions and rules in front of them as they work. They will have two whole class periods to work on these narratives and on the second day the teacher will compile them and make copies so that everyone will have a copy of each narrative.
- 2) Homework for day 14: Read pages 199-227 in *A Woman's Place* for Monday and keep up the journals.
- 3) On day 15 (back in the classroom) hand the students the packets containing the narratives everyone wrote and then begin to read them aloud asking only that the person who wrote it NOT volunteer to read their own sections. Then have a discussion about the narratives and whether the students felt each narrative had one voice or many. Then compare it to the novel where Golden has tried to write each chapter in a different voice, has she been successful?

How did it go? You should be getting this amazing amalgamation of stories that will probably be pretty funny, though some may surprise you. The point is to get the students into character and have them try to mimic the voices begun by their classmates. In order to do this they will need to have been very explicit in the emotions being conveyed by the narrators. Reading all of the stories at the end should be entertaining as well as allow the students to feel that they truly accomplished something.