

Hyphen Stories Instructions

Write a narrative from the perspective of an American with a hyphenated ethnicity, region, or race (Asian American, African American, Latinx American, Middle Eastern American, Pacific Island American, etc).

Your story can be told in the first-person point of view (you are the character) or third-person point of view (you are the narrator).

Your story should have a clear beginning, middle, and end.

Paragraph 1: Beginning of Story

Paragraph 2: Middle of Story

Paragraph 3: End of Story

Step 1: View the [Hyphen-Nation Videos](#) on the New York Times website.

Step 2: Brainstorm Possible Story Ideas

- Who is telling the story? Who is the story about?
- How does your character identify?
- What does being an American mean to your character?
- Why is this story being told?
- What happens in the story? Does the character experience a moment where their American identity is challenged?

Step 3: Write your imagined narrative as if you are that character or telling their story.

Writing Tips:

- Show don't tell: Show me what's happening in your story with description.
- Be creative
- Create characters
- Use dialogue
- Don't plagiarize from the Internet!

