

WRITING DEVELOPMENT

RULE #1: If anything I say on this page conflicts with what your teachers have told you, I am wrong, and they are right.

Cattlemen and Cowboys

14. Narrative analysis I – narrative

Edexcel students: 'Ranching and the cattle industry' is a major topic on your specification, and you have a narrative analysis question in the exam.

AQA students: this is not a stated topic on your specification, although it was one of the problems faced by Homesteaders. You will meet a narrative analysis question in Paper 1, so it will do no harm to study this exercise.

To write a narrative, you must:

- Plan out the events/developments you intend to describe, in the logical order; these are the events for which you will 'tell the story', using subordinating conjunctions of time and sequence such as: 'First', 'Next', 'After', 'Before', 'Later', 'Initially', 'At last', 'Also', 'In addition', 'Meanwhile', 'Simultaneously', 'Furthermore'.
- Provide some relevant 'proving' information about the event/development.
- Better essays will explain the importance/significance of the event/development; why was it a key event in the narrative?

Let's say you are asked: "Write a narrative account analysing the growth of cattle ranching 1865-80."

Study the following timeline of key moments in the development of cattle-ranching:

Date	Event Summary
1861-1865	The Civil War let the Longhorn herds multiply in Texas.
1866	Goodnight and Oliver Loving opened up the Goodnight-Loving Trail to Colorado.
1867	Abilene, on the Kansas Pacific Railroad, became the first major cattle-shipping town. Era of the cattle-drives.
1868	Goodnight founded the Rock Canon Ranch in Colorado
1870s	Heyday of cattle-ranching. John Iliffe – 'Cattle King of the Northern Plains' – owned 15,000 acres of land, controlling (through the Crazy Quilt) 600,000 acres of the open range.
1880	Goodnight founded the Panhandle Stock Association to hunt down rustlers; eg Billy the Kid 1881.
1880	Open range ranching reached its peak, with massive herds on the Great Plains – key factors: supplies to reservations/ refrigerated carriages/ demand in the east.
1881	James Brisbin published: <i>Beef Bonanza on the Plains, or How to Get Rich Quick</i>

You will see that the timeline already provides: (a) the sequence of key events

- Think which subordinating conjunction of time/sequence you would use to introduce each development.
- Underline the 'proving information' provided on the timeline.
- Use the wider [timeline](#) on the webpage to create a similar narrative list with proving information for the essay:

"Write a narrative account analysing the ways in which the cattle industry changed in the years c1876–90."

NOTE: this Writing Development exercise is only about writing a simple narrative; you will look at the 'analysis' side of writing a 'narrative analysis' essay in the Writing Development exercise #17 on Law and Order.