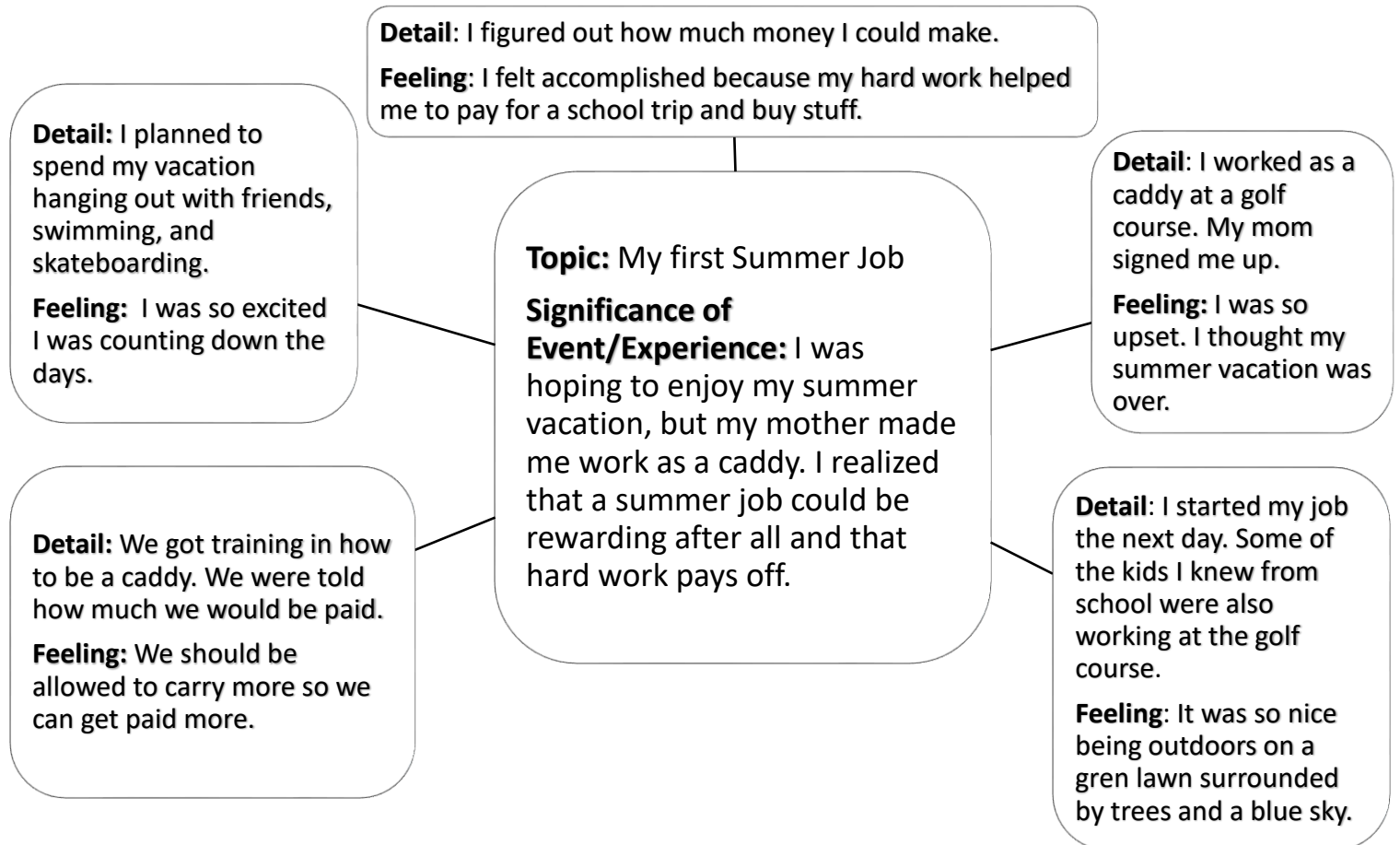# Brainstorm

Use the graphic organizer below to help brainstorm a possible focus for your narrative about a time when you learned something about yourself, someone else, or something about the world as a whole.

Possible Topics	Significance of Event/Experience

Choose a topic.

Use a graphic organizer to help capture your memories about the sequence of events and add details you might want to include in your personal narrative. Here is how the author of the mentor text used the graphic organizer.

Here's an example:

Detail: I figured out how much money I could make.

Feeling: I felt accomplished because my hard work helped me to pay for a school trip and buy stuff.

Detail: I planned to spend my vacation hanging out with friends, swimming, and skateboarding.

Feeling: I was so excited I was counting down the days.

Detail: I worked as a caddy at a golf course. My mom signed me up.

Feeling: I was so upset. I thought my summer vacation was over.

Topic: My first Summer Job

Significance of Event/Experience: I was hoping to enjoy my summer vacation, but my mother made me work as a caddy. I realized that a summer job could be rewarding after all and that hard work pays off.

Detail: We got training in how to be a caddy. We were told how much we would be paid.

Feeling: We should be allowed to carry more so we can get paid more.

Detail: I started my job the next day. Some of the kids I knew from school were also working at the golf course.

Feeling: It was so nice being outdoors on a gren lawn surrounded by trees and a blue sky.

Detail:

Feeling:

Detail: At this point, do not worry about presenting details in order. Just jot down anything you think is important along with your thoughts about each detail.

Detail:

Feeling:

Detail:

Feeling:

Topic:

Significance of Event/Experience:

Topic: The focus of your narrative must be broad enough so that you have plenty to write about but narrow enough to tackle in a few paragraphs.

Detail:

Feelings:

Detail:

Feelings:

Conclusion: Identifying the significance of the event or experience is a way of reflecting on it. This will be helpful when you write your conclusion.