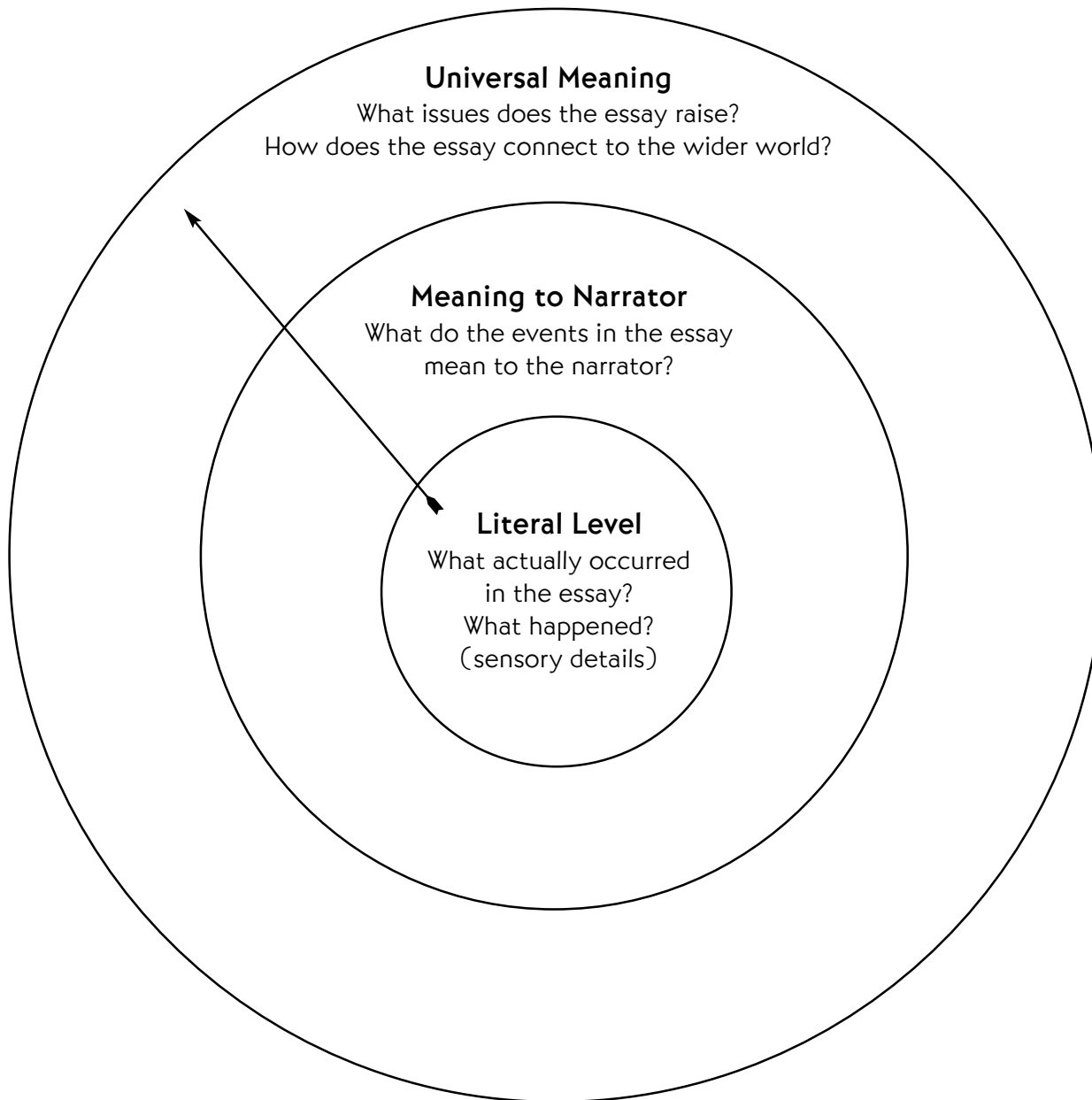


Levels of Meaning in Writing



Literal Level:

This refers to a literal level of understanding. This is the description of the particular. What was the actual experience? This refers to our understanding of the piece itself. Thinking on this level allows the reader to **recall factual information** from the essay.

Meaning to the Narrator:

The act of **processing information**. The reader makes sense of information they have gathered and retrieved from long-and short-term memory.

This refers to an interpretive level of understanding. What was the meaning of the experience for the narrator? Why was this experience significant? What did we understand the piece to mean?

Universal Meaning:

Requires the reader to **go beyond the concepts or principles they have learned** and to use these in novel or hypothetical situations.

This refers to a cultural level of understanding. What are the implications? What is the heart of this piece that reverberates out beyond the events in the piece itself? What is the more universal meaning?