

## Narrative Writing

### What is narrative writing?

The purpose of narrative writing is to share a story and to help a reader visualize the people, events, and/or setting. The story may be based on real or imaginary events and experiences. Included in this mode of writing are well-developed characters, setting, problem, solution, and a sequence of events. A narrator may tell the story and often narrative writing is written from the author's point of view. The language is less formal because the author is being a storyteller. An effective narrative piece of writing has a purpose that is either implied or stated.

### What are some key features of narrative writing?

A narrative piece has many distinct characteristics. The author unfolds a logical, well-developed and structured sequence of events. The elements of a narrative include setting, characters, conflicts or problems that move the action of the story forward. A sequence of events leads to a turning point, which then leads to the resolution of the conflicts or problems.

Utilizing varied techniques, the author captures the attention of the audience and provides motivation to continue reading. The writer orients the reader by providing a context and point of view, providing enough information to enable the reader to follow the storyline. The characters and events are developed in the middle section of the story, so that the turning point makes sense. By the end of the story, the reader is able to infer the theme or the point the

writer wants to illustrate. To capture the action and bring the events to life, the writer uses sensory details, precise nouns, vivid verbs, and realistic dialogue. This descriptive language helps the reader visualize the setting, characters and action.

The author intentionally uses transition words and phrases to show sequence, to illustrate changes in time or setting and to connect events and experiences.

### What are some points to remember when writing a narrative?

Narrative writing provides the author the opportunity to let his/her personality and voice be showcased. The audience of a narrative is expecting to enjoy both the style of the author and the voice of a narrator.

For the reader to stay engaged, the writer must "show," not "tell," the story. Unrelated details and rambling may confuse and disengage the reader. Pacing and organization are keys to allowing the events to unfold naturally. A variety of transitional words are used to signal the reader of a different time or setting. All of the details used in descriptions of setting, character, and action must contribute to the theme or the underlying purpose for telling the story.

As with any published writing, the author needs to create a legible piece. The author proofreads his/her writing to check for clarity, style, word choice and organization. Editing is done as a final step to check for format, capitalization, punctuation, grammar and spelling.

### Sources:

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