



Before we delve into brainstorming for a short story writing event, we will learn “nuts and bolts” that help make your narrative writing, or story about yourself, come to life. Today’s focus will be on two things: descriptive writing and dialogue.

So What Is Narrative Writing (the basis of your short story writing)?

- Narrative writing is specific and focused.
- It is **not** just writing random facts about your life and hoping they come out okay.
- It follows a specific plot chart, focuses on a single time (or time period of your life) and shows that you learned something through it and became the better for it.

When writing a narrative essay, write with:

- _____: making things exact, accurate, well-defined
- _____: comprehensive, in depth, thorough
- _____: _____
- _____: _____

What else does a narrative essay have?

- _____
- _____ of sorts
 - _____: main storyline, what is occurring
 - _____: actors part in the story

- _____: location and situation
- _____: pinnacle of the action
- _____: conclusion of the story → goes along with...
- _____ (theme!)

Dialogue

- A strong narrative essay will also have dialogue.

How to Correctly Use Dialogue in Your Writing

Dialogue is a direct quotation – a person's exact words.

Ex:

Capitalizing Dialogue

- Dialogue usually starts with a _____ letter.

Ex:

- When an expression identifying the speaker _____ the dialogue, the second part of the dialogue begins with a _____ case letter.

Ex:

Periods in Dialogue

- Only put a period inside the ending quotation marks _____
_____ – no words can follow it.

Ex:

BAD Example: “No way. The A’s are awesome.” Kennedy replied.

(can’t put a period inside the quote because words come after it)

Comma Instead of Period

- If the dialogue is a statement and you can’t use a period inside the quotations because it isn’t the end of the sentence, _____ instead.

Ex:

Question and Exclamation Marks

- Question marks and exclamations can go inside the quotation marks – even if it isn’t the end of the _____.

Ex:

Ex:

Dialogue Between Two People

- When two people are talking to each other, you have to start a new _____ in between their dialogue.

Ex: