

Fictional Narrative Framework

Writing Task: Write a short story (a fictional narrative) with a suspenseful plot.

Writing Purpose: To entertain

Audience: classmates, friends, family, teachers, or general readers

Important Features of a Narrative:

- (1) Contains a beginning, middle, and end
- (2) Includes story elements / plot elements ~ setting, characters, conflict, rising action, climax, resolution
- (3) Follows a plot line and is told as a sequence of events.
- (4) Builds suspense.
- (5) Uses vivid descriptions, sensory details, and strong verbs.
- (6) Includes dialogue.
- (7) Maintains a consistent point of view ~ first person or third person limited easiest.
- (8) Characters are developed throughout the story through actions and words.

PARAGRAPH 1: Exposition (Beginning/Introduction) ~

~ "Drop" your reader into the story by starting off with descriptions of the following:

Setting: Use SENSORY DETAILS (colors, sounds, sights, etc.) to describe and SHOW your audience the setting. Use STRONG ADJECTIVES and VERBS!

Examples:

- (1) The sun's first rays cast shafts of orange light through the forest.
- (2) The snow fell lightly, covering everything in a soft and gentle blanket and bringing the quiet hush of winter to the forest.
- (3) The afternoon steel blue sky was ominous with dark clouds hovering over the mountains and the sound of thunder booming in the distance.

Main Character(s): Describe your character(s). AGAIN SHOW the reader your character by using STRONG ADJECTIVES and VERBS; do not simply tell.

Examples:

- (1) After the first few notes, Michelle's eyes suddenly grew wide and the corners of her mouth turned in a huge smile.
- (2) With her jet-black hair pinned tightly into a perfect bun and her wide-rimmed glasses sitting on the tip of pointy nose, Henrietta glared at the man behind the counter.
- (3) Sleepily, Jason dragged himself from the comfort of his cozy bed. Stumbling to the kitchen table, he yawned, rubbed his tired eyes, and plopped himself down next to his sister. His fiery red hair sticking up in every direction brought giggles from his sister and his mom.

