Narrative Essay

When you write a narrative, you are telling a *story*.

Remember, you want your readers to feel as though they are immersed in the story itself (where they can see, hear, and feel whatever the characters see, hear, and feel).

Always begin with these **key elements**:

1. *Definitive Plot* (Clearly tell what the story is about)
2. *Characters* (Give the characters in your story feeling)
3. *Setting* (A good narrative will usually include a good surrounding scenery)
4. *Dialogue* (Let your readers feel as if they're a third person listening in on the character's conversations)
5. *Climax* (A good narrative should have an exciting, gripping, sudden **plot twist** that makes readers eager to find out what will happen next)
6. *Effective conclusion* (A clear, effective summary can't be overemphasized – it must wrap up the whole story and give the reader a good finish)

Use vivid, descriptive language – You can't go wrong with **ADJECTIVES and ADVERBS**! Appeal to the reader's senses with **sense words** and plenty of **details**.

Here is an example sentence with descriptive **adverbs**:

● The horse's *gracefully* powerful long legs moved *rhythmically* as he galloped into the flowing shadow of the reddish-orange sunset, the warm rays sparkling *brilliantly* on his golden coat and illuminating every remarkable feature of this *extraordinarily* beautiful creature.

Here are some examples of sentences with highly descriptive **adjectives**:

● As Linda entered the arching doorway of her room, she marveled in *surprise* as she realized how elaborately everything was *situated*. The *flowery pink ruffled* curtains were clipped up fancily so that the *marvelous warm* sunlight *emanated* through the room and cast a *perfect* glow over every piece of furniture. A *clear* glass vase full of intricately cut roses made the *old* dresser it was placed on suddenly *beautiful* again. However, she saw *out of the corner* of her eye a *dark* shadow seemingly *gliding* eerily towards her along the *pink* wall.

Narrative – How does this affect the story? Four possibilities:

First Person - Narrator uses *I* and *we* rather than *he, she, they*. Most often the narrator is a protagonist or one of the major characters. Sometimes the narrator may be an observer and a participant in the story.
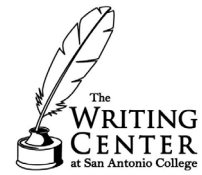
Third Person Omniscient - An all-knowing narrator gives thoughts of characters, judgments about them, as well as details of action and dialog.

Third Person Limited Omniscient - Narrator focuses on thoughts, feelings and actions of a single major character.

Third Person Dramatic or Objective - Like a camera, the narrator reports only what can be seen and heard; no thoughts of characters are given except as spoken.

Narrative Point of View	Advantages	Disadvantages
First Person	• Eyewitness account, gives immediacy, realism to story • Author can create dramatic irony • Narrator can be unifying element	• No direct interpretation by the author • Bias or limited knowledge of narrator • Danger that narrator may transcend his knowledge
Third Person Omniscient	• God-like narrator gives thoughts of character, dimension to story • Most flexible: author can control omniscience	• Author can come between reader and story • Shifting from character to character may destroy unity
Third Person Limited Omniscient	• Realistic; we see world through one person • Ready-made unifying element • Useful characterization of point-of-view character	• Limited field of observation • Difficulty having character aware of all important events
Third Person Dramatic or Objective	• Impartial report • Offers most speed, action • Reader must interpret	• Author cannot interpret • Relies heavily on action and dialog