

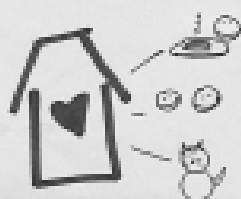
# Strategies for Generating Personal Narrative Writing



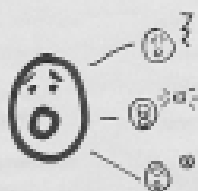
Think of a **person** who matters to you, list small moment stories connected to him/her and write one.



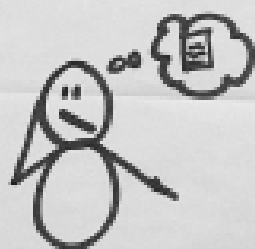
Think of **first times, last times, or times you realized something**, list stories you could tell about each and write one.



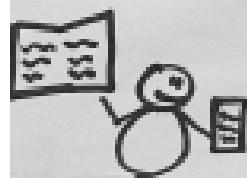
Think of a **place** that matters, list small moments that occurred in that place and write one.



Think of a **strong feeling**. List stories of particular times you felt it and write one.



**Live differently** because you are a writer. Notice small moments, and capture them in entries.



**Read the words another author has written** and allow them to spark your own story ideas.

## Questions to Ask Yourself as You Edit

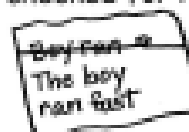
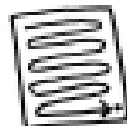
- Does this make sense? Are any words or parts missing?



My dog <sup>barked</sup> and ran away.

- Are all my sentences complete? Have I checked for run-ons and fragments?

✓ It was cold and windy.



- Have I used correct capitalization (for names and the beginning of sentences)?

Eliza John

One cold morning...

- Have I used commas and quotation marks for dialogue?

"It is time to write," said the teacher.

- Have I checked to see that all my verbs and subjects agree?  
Are my verbs in the right tense (past, present, future)?



- Do the words all seem to be spelled right? Do they look right?  
Have I checked any I'm uncertain of?



- Have I checked for frequently confused words?

To

Too

Two

There

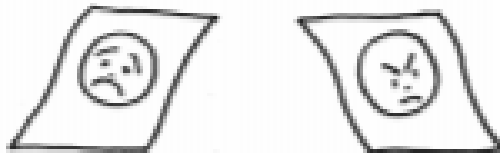
Their

- Have I paragraphed and indented?

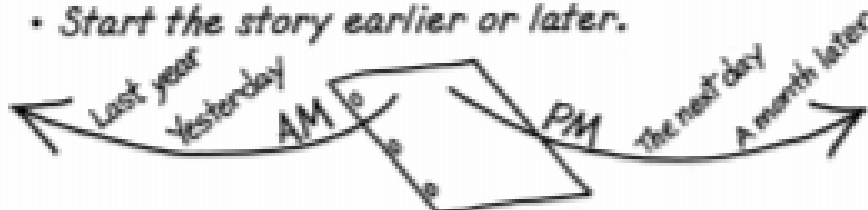


## Thinking Up a Whole New Way to Tell a Story

- Tell the story differently to bring out a different important meaning or message.



- Start the story earlier or later.



- Tell the story out of order.



- Include—emphasize—the part played by different people.

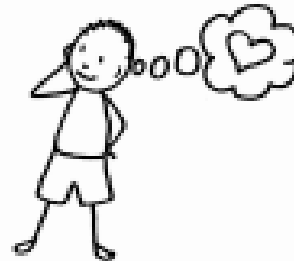




## How Stories Tend to Go

- Main character

- Motivations, hopes, wants



- Problem

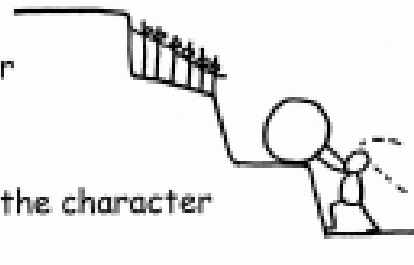
- Trouble or tension, often with some sort of emotional response from the character

XXX



- Things happen related to the problem

- The problem gets bigger or another problem emerges
- The tension increases for the character
- Sometimes the character tries to solve the problem







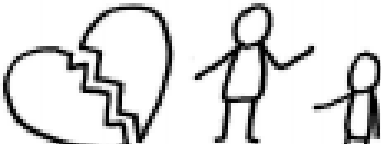
- Resolution



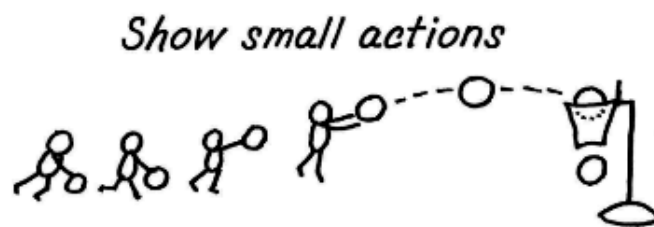
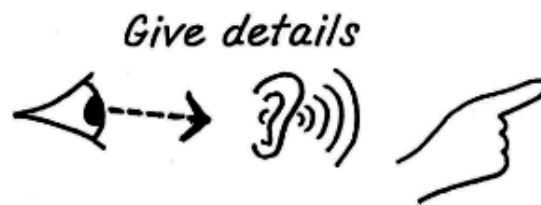
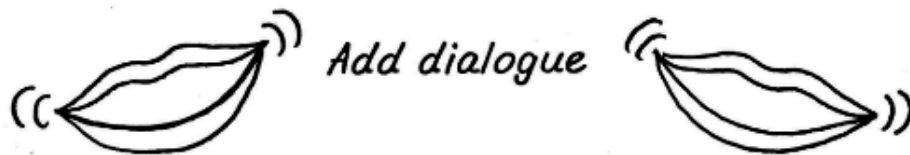
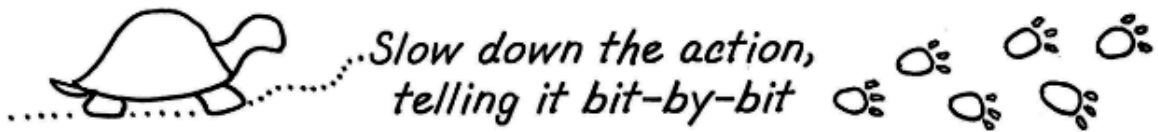
# Techniques for Raising the Level of Narrative Writing

- ☆ Dream the dream of the story and then write in a way that allows readers to experience the moment along with you.
- ☆ Revise using all you know about storytelling, not summarizing.
- ☆ Use all you know about grammar, spelling and punctuation to edit as you write.
- ☆ Tell the story from *inside* it.
- ☆ Use details that are true to the event and that ring true.
- ☆ Use tools like the Narrative Checklist to ask, "In what ways does my writing measure up?" "In what ways do I need to improve?" Then, revise your work to make it stronger.
- ☆ Ask "What is my story really about?" and then write to bring forth that meaning.
- ☆ Bring out the story structure.
- ☆ Elaborate on important parts - parts that relate to what your story is really about.
- ☆ Incorporate scenes from the past or future to highlight the significance of your story.
- ☆ Don't simply end stories! Resolve problems, teach lessons or make changes that tie back to the big meaning of your story.

## Lessons from Mentor Narratives

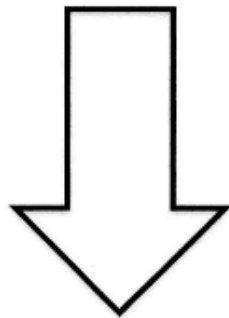
<i>Create the words a character could have said in ways that reveal his or her personality.</i>	
<i>Give reasons to explain the way a character acts.</i>	...because
<i>Tell the exact words and tone a character uses when thinking.</i>	
<i>S-l-o-w down the problem and s-t-r-e-t-c-h out the tension.</i>	
<i>Capture the exact actions and images that lead to an emotional response.</i>	
<i>Ensure that secondary characters play a role in the story's overall meaning.</i>	

## *Strategies for Elaborating on Important Parts*



## *Ways to Find Turning Points in Our Lives:*

- *Think of "first times"*
- *Think of "last times"*
- *Think of "times you realized something"*



*Looking at Characters' Turning Points Can  
Help Us Develop Theories about Them.  
We Can Stop When We Notice:*

- *"First times"*
- *"Last times"*
- *"Times when they realize something"*

