

## 1. How to Write Descriptively

<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/how-to-write-fiction-that-comes-alive-nalo-hopkinson>

This video goes over how to write descriptively especially when writing fiction. To write a good fictional story, the writer needs to make sure they are being descriptive enough. It talks about the importance of metaphors and how they can add description to your writing. “The point of fiction is to cast a spell,” according to the video. When you are writing you don’t have the visual you may have in a movie so your reader may have a harder time being fully immersed in the story if you aren’t descriptive enough. That’s where metaphors come in to help!

Engaging the senses is the best way to draw readers in and make them feel like they can see the words jumping off the page. Taste, smell, touch, sight, and hearing are all vital description points within fiction stories. Writing in a matter-of-fact way leaves room for open interpretation from the reader, which may prohibit them from feeling the full message of the story. This video does a successful job of showing the senses in action by providing an example of using sound and motion descriptors. It also shows an example of a metaphor and how it can further the message of the sentence. Finally, another example shows when it’s possible for the writer to leave room for reader interpretation for things that may be less important like the looks of the characters and what they’re wearing. This video did an amazing job showing just how important description is to a successful fiction story.

## 2. How Misused Modifiers can Hurt your Writing

<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/how-misused-modifiers-can-hurt-your-writing-emma-bryce>

This video creates an engaging atmosphere for students to learn about the confusing rules of misplaced modifiers. In “The Case of a Misplaced Modifier,” a detective shows students how to figure out how to avoid writing a confusing sentence. The detective first gives a comedic example of a report of a robbery from a newspaper whose headline, “Thief Robs Town with World’s Largest Chocolate Bunny,” contains a misplaced modifier. This allows for a simple

introduction to what the video is going to be about before he dives into what a modifier is. A modifier is then described as “words, phrases, or clauses that add information.” From there, the narrator returns to the original example from the newspaper and shows students how to correct that exact sentence so it is more clear what is happening.

Students are then shown the different types of modifiers and how they affect sentences. Modifiers, dangling modifiers, and squinting modifiers are individually identified in the same scenario as the chocolate-bunny sentence. Having each of the modifiers identified and explained individually allows students to clearly see the distinction between each one. Using the same example allows students to see the changes that are happening and how each modifier can be fixed to have the same outcome. Overall, this video was extremely engaging, especially for elementary students. It successfully covers a confusing and common grammatical error while also explaining it in a way that is simple to understand.

### 3. How to Write Comedy:

<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/how-to-make-your-writing-funnier-cheri-steinkellner>

This video goes over how to write comedy that is actually funny. It talks about how comedy is based around “who, what, where, why, and how”. The most funny jokes are very descriptive. The video also discusses archetypes which are stereotypical characters that started in Italy. According to the video, “the secret to humor is surprise.” It discusses making mind maps to see incongruencies. The video also discusses the rule of zip zip zag.

The video discusses all kinds of different methods to write comedy. It even talks about how words with /k/ sounds are related to comedy. They suggested one should try to use lots of words with /k/ sounds when writing comedy. The zip zip zag rule or rule of three is another suggested method. You set up a pattern with the first two things then switch it up for the last part. For example, a man, a priest, and a coconut walk into a bar would be use of the zip zip zag rule. In all, this video could be utilized to teach students how to utilize comedy in their writing.