

THE

# NON-NARRATIVE

BREAKDOWN



# Begin writing your own narrative – step by step!

## CHOOSE YOUR OWN STORY

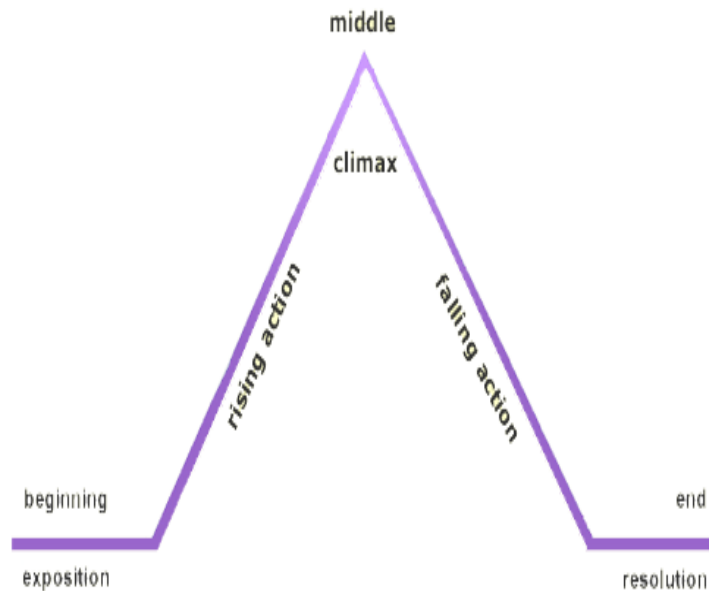
- ▶ Write any narrative of your own choosing – imaginative, personal, or persuasive

## DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START?

- ▶ Build a narrative surrounding the creation of some famous invention
- ▶ Rewrite a narrative from a famous movie or book – change the characters, events etc.
- ▶ Build a narrative around a sailor's adventure at sea
- ▶ Build a narrative around the search for a long lost relative
- ▶ Build a narrative that acts as a prequel or sequel to a story we've read in class this year

# Plot: what are the events of your story?

## ▶ Plot Diagram



- ▶ On your free response sheet, sketch out the plot for your narrative. This plot diagram should offer details you will use to write your narrative.
- ▶ Feel free to add **SUBPLOTS** if needed.
- ▶ You must have an:
  - ▶ Exposition (introduction)
  - ▶ Rising Action
  - ▶ Climax (turning point)
  - ▶ Falling Action
  - ▶ Resolution

# Theme: what is the main idea of your story?

- ▶ Most narratives are written from either 1<sup>st</sup> person or 3<sup>rd</sup> person perspectives.
- ▶ 1<sup>st</sup> person is the main character “I” describing the action. They can explain their own feelings and tell the events they witness, but they don’t know the thoughts of other characters or any actions they don’t directly witness.
- ▶ 3<sup>rd</sup> person is someone outside the action of the story.
- ▶ 3<sup>rd</sup> person LIMITED - This type of narrator can see ALL the action and events but does not know every character’s thoughts.
- ▶ 3<sup>rd</sup> person OMNISCIENT – This type of narrator has a “God view” – they see everything and know what everyone is thinking.

# Setting: where does your story take place?

- ▶ Pick the time and place of your narrative. Are there multiple settings? How will you move the action from one place to another?
- ▶ How does the time period you choose affect your writing?
  - ▶ For example, how characters dress, eat, think, talk, etc.
- ▶ Use sensory language / imagery.
- ▶ Authors use imagery that appeals to the five senses to create a “mental picture” for the reader.
  - ▶ Sight
  - ▶ Smell
  - ▶ Touch
  - ▶ Taste
  - ▶ Sound

# Point of view: who is telling your story?

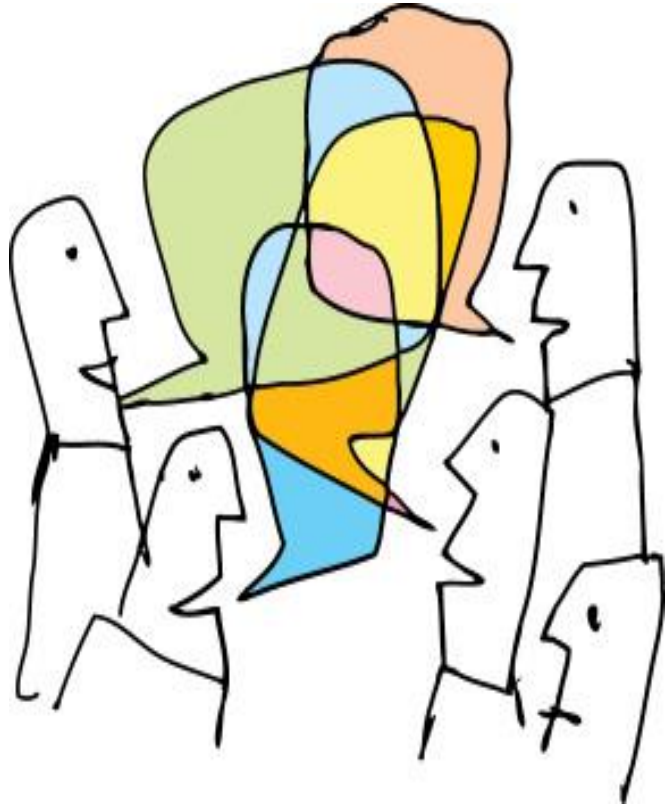
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# Dialogue: create interesting conversation between characters

- ▶ Dialogue is a conversation between two or more people.
- ▶ Dialogue brings characters to life and adds interest.
- ▶ Dialogue must do more than just duplicate real speech.
- ▶ Use more interesting words to spice up your dialogue – see next slide!
- ▶ What parts of your story would benefit the most from adding dialogue?
- ▶ Remember, dialogue increases the pacing and tension in a narrative.
- ▶ Dialogue may be a good next step after an extremely descriptive and detailed paragraph.



# Writing dialogue? Use something instead of SAID!



<i>said</i>	articulated
told	communicated
spoke	conveyed
remarked	declared
expressed	stated
uttered	vented
vocalized	voiced
proclaimed	pronounced



# Tips for Starting

- ▶ Tip 1: Describe the setting in detail to get your pencil moving. Obviously the setting will probably be cold no matter which of the 3 you selected.
- ▶ Tip 2: Get the dialogue out of the way. Begin with the words of someone speaking. (Remember to consult your notes from yesterday).
- ▶ Tip 3: Character counts. Start by naming and describing the main characters. How old are they? What is their personality? Etc.