

# Narrative Writing



# OBJECTIVES



- to identify the essential elements of a narrative paper.
- to understand how to write a narrative paper.
- to plan your narrative writing more effectively.

# What is narrative writing?

Narrative writing is writing that has a story, characters, tension and other essential parts of a story.

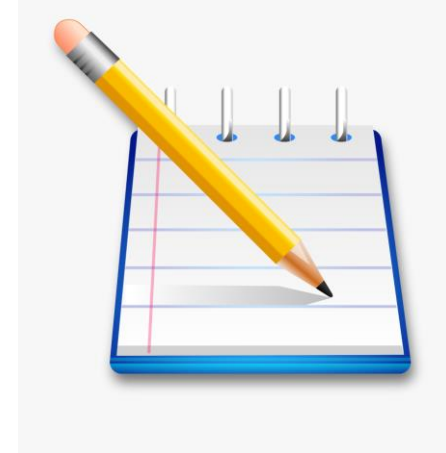
## Chronological Order



It is best described as an account of a sequence of events, usually in chronological order.

The writer is trying to construct and communicate a story, complete with characters, conflict and setting.

# Narrative Structure



- 1. Exposition/Beginning:** The situation is developed, more characters are introduced.
- 2. Rising action/Problem:** Something happens to complicate the lives of the characters.
- 3. Climax:** A decisive moment is reached: matters come to a head; suspense is high.
- 4. Falling action:** Action and events that occur after the climax
- 5. Recoluton/Ending:** Matters are resolved and some sort of satisfactory end is reached.

These **essential elements** keep the story running smoothly and allow the action to develop in a logical way that the reader can follow.

# Climax

The turning point; the point of the greatest suspense or action.

Events before the climax  
Characters attempt to solve the problem, but fail.

**Rising action**

Action and events that occur after the climax

**Falling action**

## Plot

The structure or organization of events that make up a fictional story.

Beginning of the story that introduces Conflict, Character, Setting

**Exposition**

The end of the story where the conflict or problems are solved.

**Resolution**

# The exposition or beginning



The exposition of an original realistic **story** introduces:

Character – describe at least two traits of the character

Conflict – tension that is going to build up to the climax

Setting- when and where does it take place?

Ask yourself what is going to be unusual about my story and be sure to include similes, personifications or a metaphors.



**Female**

# Your Main Character

**Male**



**What do they do for work?**

**How old are they?**

**Do they have a family?**

**What do they look like?**

**What is their personality like?**

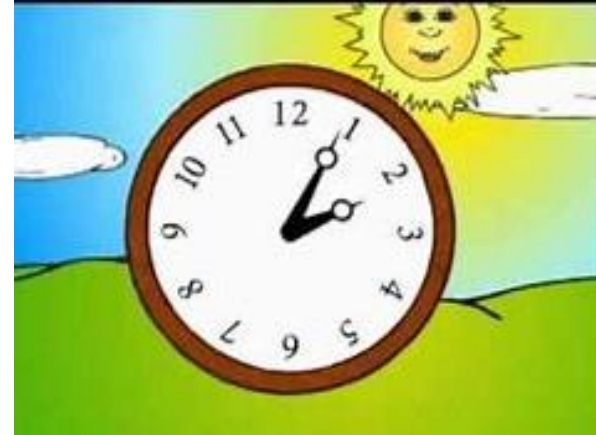
**What do they do in their spare time?**



# Setting: Where does your story take place?

Settings includes:

The time period



The geographical location



The socio-economic conditions





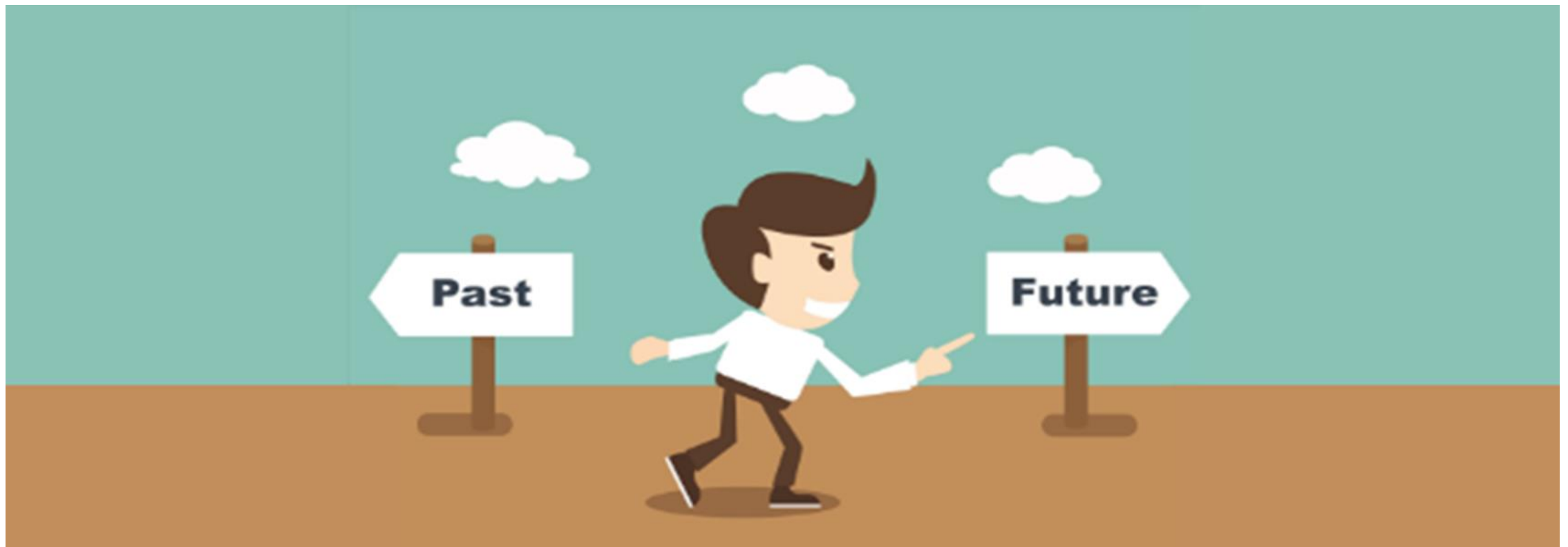
# When does your story take place?

Past

Present

Future

**Tip:** It is much easier to write from a point of view to do it all in the past!



# Conflict

The opposing force created, that will lead to the climax within the story. It generally comes in various forms:

1. Conflict with others
2. Conflict with the supernatural
3. Conflict of an internal battle that a lead character has within, is often the most powerful.



# Rising Action

What is the purpose of rising action?

**The main purpose of the rising action in a short story is:** to build interest and suspense.

Events before the climax.

- Events that provoke conflict, build tension, and generate interest.
- Characters attempt to solve the problem but fails then grows (becoming more able to deal with challenges that lie ahead).
- Lead up to your first point or main confrontation.
- Without rising action, your climax won't seem as interesting or exciting, and your story's ending will have less emotional weight.



# Climax

**The turning point;** The most intense, exciting, or important point  
of your story.



# Falling Action

Action and events that occur after the climax.

**The falling action of a story is** the section of the plot following the climax, in which the tension stemming from the story's central conflict decreases and the story moves towards its conclusion.

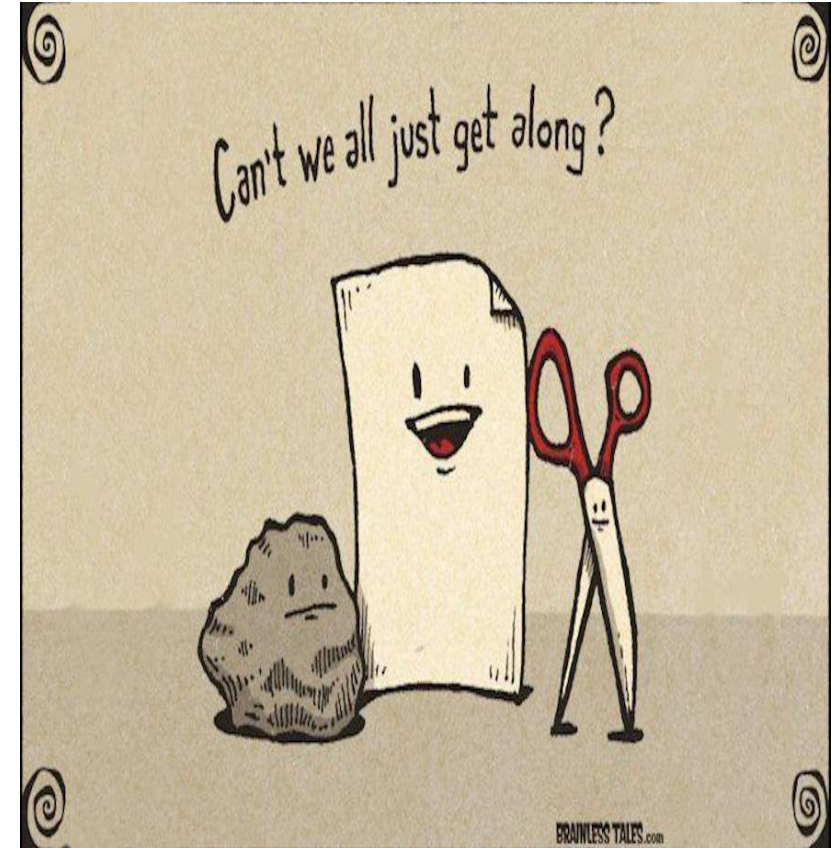
Falling action is wrapping up of the plot points, questions being answered, and character development.



# Resolution

**The end of the story** where the conflict or problems are resolved. It may include any of the following:

- Clarify what the disagreement was.
- Establish a common goal for both parties...
- Discuss ways to meet the common goal...
- Agree on the best way to resolve the conflict.



# Think about content before you get started

Prewriting the narrative, requires planning.

This step requires you to think of a topic to write about.

What is the motif?

Think about the structure and keep the story running smoothly and allow the action to develop in a logical way that the reader can follow.

Include a realistic human experience, which the writer feels emotionally connected to.

Provide some insight to the character.

Build up to a climax.



# Tips for students

2 and a half

Can you write this ?

Surprise the examiner in your writing, make it memorable.

Set your story over a **short** period of time.

Be specific, interesting, and describe.

Show, don't tell...draw the reader in.

**Don't** assume the reader knows.

**Don't** include "chit chat".





# Avoid these stories:

Going back in time  
Teenager pregnancy  
Dream Endings!!



**Wizards**

**Fairy tales**



**Murder/Blood**



**Drug abuse**

# Show, don't tell

Showing creates mental images in the reader's mind.

When readers get a clear picture, they are more engaged in the story (drawing them in).

“Laura was angry.”

It is far better to describe in close detail what is happening to Laura's body as she is getting angry.

The blood rushed to her ears. That familiar throbbing pulsed through her temples;

Her heart quickened and her pulse raced.

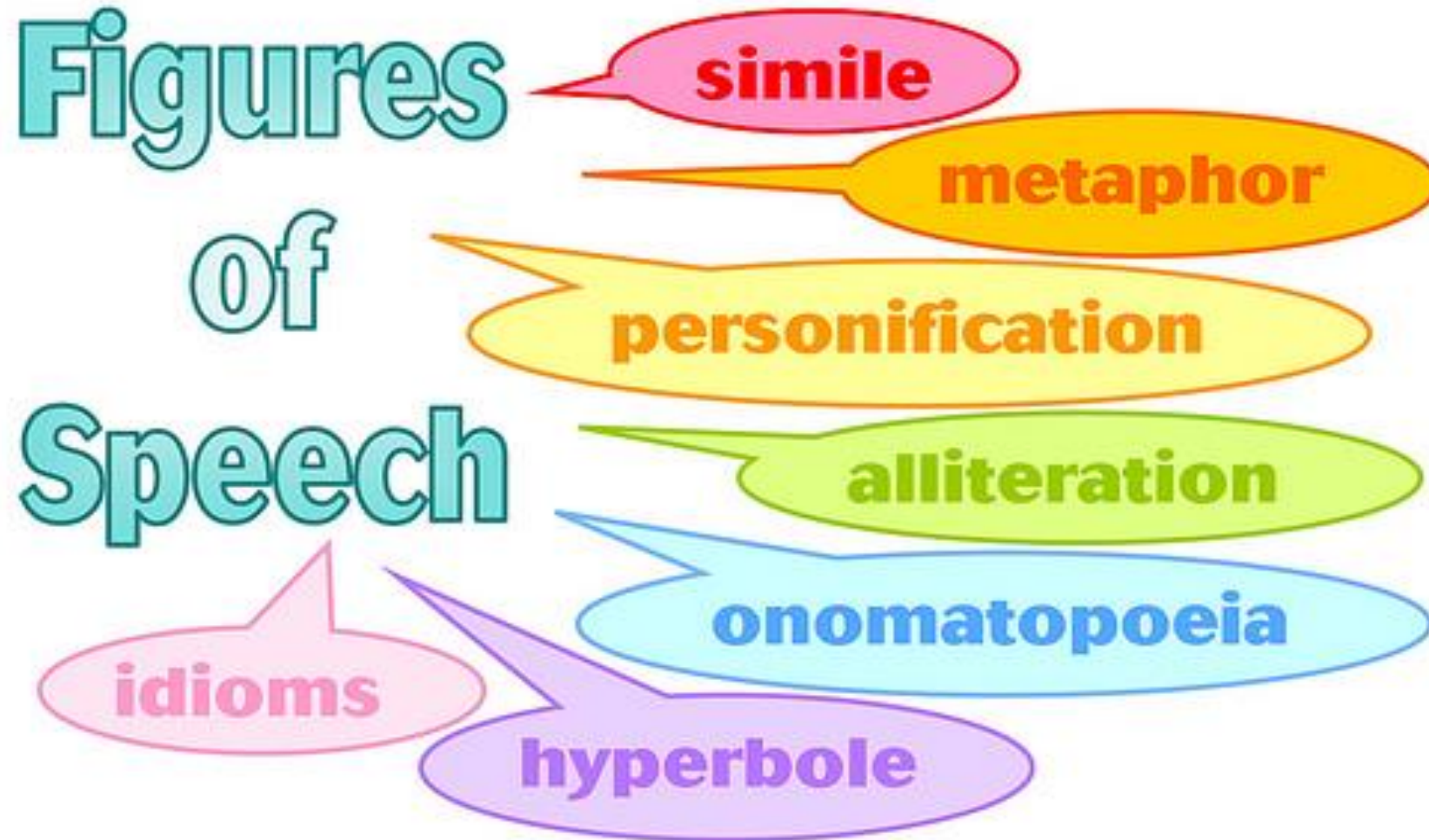


# Don't forget to include sensory language.

The five senses are a way of creating imagery in the reader's mind and to make them feel as though they are in the scene.



**Figurative Language is a foundational feature that exists in nearly all narratives.**



# Review of narrative writing

The plot or main characteristics of narrative writing are:

1. Exposition/Beginning
2. Rising Act
3. Climax
4. Falling Act
5. Resolution/Conclusion



These essential elements keep the story running smoothly and allow the action to develop in a logical way that the reader can follow.

# Things to remember



**Climax**



**Rising action**

**Falling action**

**Plot**



**Beginning**



**End of the story**

# Conclusion

Now that we have discussed and reviewed the essential elements of narrative writing

You are on your way

to achieving a successful narrative paper!

