

**Entry 28: Point of View**

<b>Point of View</b>	Point of view is the perspective the author uses to tell the story.
<b>Narrator Types</b>	The narrator is the character who tells the story. He/she may or may not be part of the story itself. An author creates a narrative voice for the story using either first-person (I, we) or third person (he, she, it, they) point of view.
<b><i>First Person Participant</i></b>  Example	The narrator is a central character in the story, and is directly involved in the action.  As I reached the table with the birthday cake, I tripped on something and fell forward. The chocolate cake smashed into my best friend Amanda's head. I watched in horror as her long hair caught on fire.
<b><i>First Person Observer</i></b>  Example	The narrator is a minor character not directly involved in the action who relates what he or she observes about the characters and action.  As I sat at the table and waited for cake, I saw Jeff put out his foot just as the hostess passed him. She tripped and smashed the cake into Amanda's head. I couldn't believe it when her hair caught on fire. I looked at Jeff, but he acted like nothing had happened.
<b><i>Third Person Limited</i></b>  Example	The narrator is not a character in the story and relates the action by limiting the viewpoint to one character's perspective.  As the hostess carried the birthday cake to the table, she tripped and fell forward. The chocolate cake smashed into her best friend Amanda's head. She watched in horror as her friend's long hair caught on fire.
<b><i>Third Person Omniscient (all knowing)</i></b>  Example	The narrator is not a character in the story, but is able to penetrate the thoughts of the characters and describe the actions and thoughts of the characters as the need arises.  Jeff saw Amanda look at Charles. He suddenly understood why she had been so distant; she was having an affair with Charles! As the hostess passed him with the cake, he stuck out his foot to trip her. As the cake smashed on Amanda's head, she felt the sticky chocolate all over her, and then something hot and painful. The hostess watched in horror; she couldn't believe that it was her fault that her best friend's hair was on fire.

## Entry 28: Point of View Continued

<b>Directions</b>	<p>Use one of the ideas provided to help you create the basis of a story (or part of a story) that you tell <b>four</b> times – from different points of view.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Speeding ticket</li><li>• Robbery (purse-snatching, shoplifting, convenience store, etc.)</li><li>• Performance event (concert, dance, circus)</li><li>• Race event (track, swimming, etc.)</li><li>• Surprise party</li></ul> <p>Invent characters and scenarios that allow you to include different details as you change the point of view from <b>1) first person participant</b>, to <b>2) first person observer</b>, to <b>3) third person limited</b>, to <b>4) third person omniscient</b>. Each description should be between 50 and 75 words.</p>
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