

# Personal Narrative

When writing,  
**SHOW, DON'T  
TELL**

- ★ To make your narrative *come to life*, avoid "telling" the story to your reader.
- ★ Instead, *give clues* that show the setting, the story, and the character.
- ★ Put the mental "*camera*" in the scene and have it run then describe what it "records."
- ★ Let your reader *discover* the meaning and experience it firsthand.

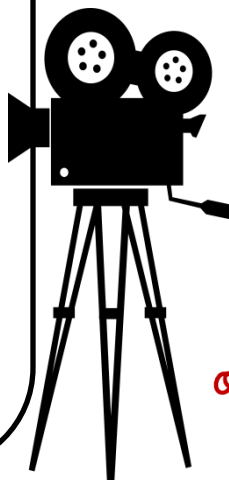
HERE'S A SENTENCE THAT TELLS:

Mr. Bobweave was a fat, ungrateful old man.

HERE'S A DESCRIPTION THAT SHOWS:

Mr. Bobweave heaved himself out of the chair. As his feet spread under his apple-like frame and his arthritic knees popped and cracked in objection, he pounded the floor with his cane while cursing that dreadful girl who was late again with his coffee.

*Which description plays a movie in your head?*



Thoughts **T.**  
Feelings  
Details  
Description  
Dialog



They'll make your story **STRONG!**

Four main types of writing:

**Expository** – Writing in which author's purpose is to inform or explain the subject to the reader.

**Persuasive** – Writing that states the opinion of the writer and attempts to influence the reader.

**Narrative** – Writing in which the author tells a story. The story could be fact or fiction.

**Descriptive** – A type of expository writing that uses the five senses to paint a picture for the reader. This writing incorporates imagery and specific details.

Narrative

vs.

Personal Narrative

*of, affecting, or belonging to a particular person.*