

Point of View

Definition: The specific position or vantage point from which the author tells the story.

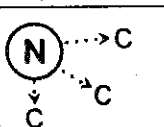
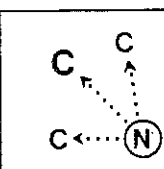
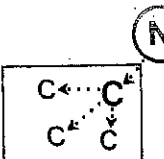
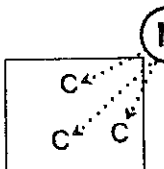
Types: An author can tell the story from either first-person (I, we) or third-person (he, she, it, they) point of view.

Code: = story

Ⓝ = narrator

C = character

Examples

<p>1. I was riding my moped down Maple Street when I swerved, lost control, and sailed into a group of ladies coming from the store. I hit one.</p>		<p>First-Person Participant The narrator is central character and is directly involved in the action.</p>
<p>2. I stopped for a light at the corner of Elm and Maple when I saw this kid on a bike run into a crowd.</p>		<p>First-Person Observer The narrator is a minor character not directly involved in the action who relates what he observes about the characters and the action.</p>
<p>3. Jeff whizzed down Maple Street, proud of his new moped. On the curve at the corner, he lost control and ran into some ladies coming from the store. He hit one.</p>		<p>Third-Person Limited The narrator is outside the story and relates it by limiting the viewpoint to one character's perspective.</p>
<p>4. Three people awoke that morning happy to be alive. Jeff had a new moped, Mrs. Bixby was going shopping with friends, and Mr. Fox had finished payment on his silver Camaro.</p>		<p>Third-Person *Omniscient The narrator is outside the story but is able to penetrate the thoughts and describe the actions of the characters as the need arises. (*Latin = All-knowing)</p>

Name _____

Date _____

Changing the Point of View

Directions: Convert one of the four situations listed below to first-person point of view in column 1 and third-person point of view in column 2. You may vary details.

1. You are a celebrity. You are being bothered by a fan who is trying to grab a memento.
2. Someone grabs your purse or wallet and runs. You take action.
3. Unaware of the strong undertow, you continue to jump the high ocean waves. You recognize danger when you can't reach the shore.
4. Walking down a main city street, you notice a crowd. Curious, you join it to discover that a millionaire is passing out hundred-dollar bills.

Column 1 = First Person

Column 2 = Third Person

Column 1 = First Person	Column 2 = Third Person