

Narrative Outline - refers to any true or made-up story. A narrative is a story or an account of an event. There are historical narratives, fictional narratives and real-life narratives. When you write a narrative, you answer the question, "What happened?" A narrative outline can also be called a STORY MAP. Since you are telling a story, you want to answer the questions: who, what, when, where, why, and how. You will also need a beginning, a middle, and an end. Think: Introduction, Body, and Conclusion. Below you will see the different elements of a story.

- **Conflict** (Identify first): A problem of a struggle involving two or more opposing forces.
 1. Man vs. Man
 2. Man vs. Self
 3. Man vs. Society
 4. Man vs. Nature
 5. Man vs. Machine
 6. Man vs. Unknown
 7. Man vs. Supernatural
- **Story Setting**: The **time**, **place**, and **mood** in which the action of the story happens. It may be real or imaginary.
- **Characters**: The people, animals, or imaginary creatures that take part in the action of a story.
- **Plot**: The sequence of events. The writer's plan for what happens and to whom it happens.
- **Climax**: The point of greatest interest or suspense in the story.
- **Resolution**: The solution to the conflict or the problem. The resolution takes place towards the end of the story.
- **Dialogue**: A narrative often has dialogue, or the actual words characters say about themselves or other characters. Dialogue allows the reader to learn about the character's personality/appearance through the character's own words, rather than having a narrator explain everything. When using dialogue, all the words the character says must be placed inside quotation marks (" "). *DIALOGUE BRINGS CHARACTERS TO LIFE.*

"I'm not very comfortable with strangers in my car." - This simple statement gives us some insight into the kind of person this character is.

- It is also important to indicate who is speaking, especially if there is more than one character. You may also want to describe how the person is feeling or acting while he/she is speaking. This helps make your narrative realistic.

"What's that?" Whipper asks.

"What's what?" I ask back, my voice quivering.

"That package there. In your hands," he says, impatient.

"It's a present. A gift. For my father."

"I'd like to know what's in that package," Whipper says, his voice low and deadly.

- Notice in the above conversation, each time the writer changes speakers, he begins a new line. This helps avoid confusion about who is speaking.
- Narrative stories can be written in **First-Person** or **Third-Person**.
First-Person- using *I* or *we*. It tells only what the narrator witnesses and thinks.
Third-Person- using *he*, *she*, or *they*. May describe events from a single character's view or may reveal the thoughts and feelings of all characters.

ALTERNATIVES TO "SAID":

replied	says	asked	inquired	questioned
call	answered	stated	yell	sing
whisper	shout	warned	continued	reminded
explained	begged	pleaded	cried	responded

A Few Tips:

- ✓ Using adjectives, adverbs, and verbs can make your writing more interesting (descriptive words).
- ✓ Use a grabber...GRAB the reader's attention
- ✓ Use life experiences, books you have read, shows you have seen, etc. for ideas.
- ✓ USE YOUR IMAGINATION!