

## SHOW NOT TELL DRAFT REVISION

In order to do a show not tell revision, the writer needs to look for telling sentences that can be rewritten with show not tell details. See if you can find some telling sentences to revise the following piece.

I was looking for my enemy's footprints in the woods. It was very hot, and I was sweaty. I could not hear anything at all, and all of a sudden my enemy jumped me from behind. My friend and I were playing soldiers in the woods.

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Look at how one writer was able to revise, using showing, more than telling statements:

In the muted light of the jungle, I scan the damp earth for my enemy's footprints. A canopy of leaves as large as dinner plates shades me from the blazing sun.

There!

The faint impression of his heel. My senses humming, I stoop, my eyes darting from side to side. No birds chirp. Even the insects pause from their usual murmuring. Too quiet. My heart hammers. Slow as an hour hand, I turn my head. A flash of color. A scream. Too late.

I am knocked down. The weight of the enemy squashes my shoulder into the mud. The edge of his blade bites into the soft underside of my neck. He flings back his shaggy head and laughs. "You almost had me, Willy!"

Now he is Tom, my best friend. He takes the pigweed knife off my neck. "But you made one mistake." He slides off.

I rub my neck. "What's that?"

"The arrowheads you keep in your pocket. I heard them click together."

This skirmish was but one of hundreds of battles that raged in the empty lot across from my childhood home in Wishek, North Dakota. Battles between guerillas and good guys, the Lone Ranger and the rustlers.

He looked hard toward the plate, set the arch of his right foot firmly across the rubber, and swung both hands behind himself while sliding his left leg back and dropping his head down. Then he swung both hands high over his head, where they met and were hidden somewhere behind his black cap. He pushed off with his left foot onto his right, swung his left leg into the air in front of him, dropped his right arm behind his back while balancing his left hand high in the air, swung his glove down, and followed it in a windmill motion with the right hand.

This passage "shows" the reader what is happening. What "telling" sentence could the author have written?

Let's look at these "telling" sentences. How can we make them "showing" sentences?

1. The girl ran fast.

2. The boy was playing baseball.

3. The team was excited when I hit the home run.