

Narrative Style of Writing

The most important point to remember when writing narrative nonfiction is to be creative. The narrative style of writing is the art of telling an engaging and meaningful story. Narrative nonfiction tells an engaging and meaningful story about real events. Journalism and history are two fields that often use narrative style in nonfiction writing.

An engaging nonfiction narrative adds personal thoughts and quotes to a topic to give a story more feeling. A meaningful nonfiction narrative describes a topic with specific details and helps people understand different opinions.

You can write a nonfiction narrative essay to help readers understand a complex topic. An essay is a short written work that makes an important point. When a nonfiction narrative essay is part of a publication, it is often called an *article*. How narrative style is used in an article depends on the publication. For example, a news article generally uses more narrative style than an encyclopedia article.

A *narrator* is the person who describes the events in an article. You may have someone in your article serve as the narrator. If so, write your article in *first person*. If you are the narrator in your article, you should write in *third person*. First person may be friendlier, but third person is usually more objective. Most articles are written in third person, although many include quotes in first person.

Some important points to remember when writing a good narrative nonfiction article:

- Personal thoughts show how people in the article feel about the experience.
- A well-crafted article makes an important point.
- Specific details support the main point.
- Descriptive words help readers picture what happens.
- Quotes make the article come alive.
- If the article is narrated by someone in the story, it should be written in first person, using *I* or *we*.
- If the article is narrated by the author, it should be written in third person, using *he*, *she*, or *they*.