

Narrative Essays

The thesis (point) at the end

Choose a great story

When telling a story aloud, we can shorten it, add more detail, or really pump up the gory bits, as we watch our audience's reaction during the telling of the story.

When our story is on paper, it has to be fantastic as it is....so **choose carefully.** a good story on paper has to suit a fairly general audience.

Frame it well:

Time stretches infinitely from the past all the way into the future, but when does your story actually begin and end? Do you need the whole back story of what you ate for breakfast? Or, does your story really begin when you open the courthouse door?

If you need some background detail, be brief, so you disrupt the actual story minimally.

Transitions - keep the pace going for the reader

Readers love to be swept along by narrative. How do we do this? Well, partly the story just needs to be interesting. However, time signals increase the impact of any story. Remember as a kid saying “and then, and then...?”

As a mature writer, use a similar technique. **Use transition words as road signs.** “at first”, “next”, “then”, “suddenly”, “later”, “finally”...