

Point of View

1. Write a piece of fiction based on an ancient or historical event. Imagine what the story behind this thing or event might be. Write a paragraph of first-person narration. Use first-person pronouns to describe events and thoughts. Think of an exciting, funny or special event in your own life. Describe the event from your point of view. Next, write a third-person paragraph about the event. This paragraph will use the pronouns he, she, it, or they to describe the event. This paragraph will use the pronouns he, she, it, or they to describe the event. How do the two paragraphs differ?
2. Write a brief, first-person narrative of a teen describing his or her test for a driver's license. In the first version, the narrator is telling a friend about the test; in the second, the narrator is the teen's parents; in the third, it is the driver education teacher.
3. Have you ever read a book or article written from the point of view of a plant or animal? What was your reaction? How was the effect different from what it would have been if the perspective were that of a human character? If your pet or the pet of someone you know well were to write a journal, what kinds of things might be included? What might an animal "comment on" that might not be noticed by humans? How might an animal understand everyday objects or events from the human world? Select an animal and write a journal entry for yesterday from the animal's point of view, without specifically mentioning what kind of animal is "writing" the entry. Read your entry to the class and see if they can guess what type of animal wrote the entry. As you read, you will need to portray the characteristics of the animal that you are dramatizing.