

Types of Narrative Writing and the Use of Time and Place

The two forms of narrative writing differ in the following ways.

- **Personal narrative**
 - Personal point of view (I, me, my, mine)
 - Actual event or memory of writer
 - The focus is driven by ending of narrative
 - writer expresses a strong feeling
 - writer expresses what he/she learns
 - writer expresses what he/she accomplishes
- **Imaginative fiction**
 - Usually first or third person point of view (*I, she, it, they, Marie*)
 - Fiction, but may be based on actual events or memories
 - The focus is driven by tension of plot
 - Lost and found – Person, animal, or thing is lost and recovered
 - Character battles Nature –character survives a natural disaster/event(i.e., hurricane, water pollution)
 - Character has a personal problem or ambition - character solves it or achieves it
 - Good character/hero battles bad character – good character will prevail
 - Mystery and solution –main character(s) solves the mystery after one or more false starts

Narrative writing always involves **passage of time** and often uses **place transition cues** as well.

- *This morning, at noon, later that night; Yesterday, today, tomorrow*
- *Last week; this week; next week*
- *In 1998, 1999, 2000; 8:00 am; 8:15 am; 8:30 am*
- *After leaving the playroom; before sitting at the game table*

In narrative writing, a new paragraph generally begins when there is a change in

- **Place**
- **Action**
- **Time, or**
- **Speaker**

Marcia Freeman calls this strategy **PATS** for easy recognition by the students.

Based on Marcia Freeman's *CraftPlus Writing Program*
DVD Set (Maupin House, 2001) and *Building a Writing*
Community: A practical guide (Maupin House, 1995)

Access Writing NGSSSLA at <http://www.floridastandards.org/Standards/PublicPreviewBenchmark1035.aspx>