

NOTES FOR SHORT NONFICTION STORIES

THE PARTS AND THEIR PURPOSES

Title

Grabs the readers' attention

Is capitalized and set apart

Paragraph #1: Introductory Paragraph

Introduces the story Topic

Introduces the setting

Introduces the characters; gives them names (all of the characters are real people/creatures)

Paragraph #2: Rising-Action Paragraph

Introduces a problem to be solved by one or more of the characters

Starts building suspense through a series of events

The events are in chronological order

Paragraph #3: Climax Paragraph

Describes the crisis

Describes the decision to act

Describes initial action toward a solution

Paragraph #4: Falling-Action Paragraph

Describes the problem-solving actions

Describes the final solution to the problem

The events are in chronological order

Paragraph #5: Concluding Paragraph

Provides an ending to the story

Provides the author's message to the reader

THE SENTENCES IN THE PARAGRAPHS OF A NONFICTION STORY

Paragraph #1: Introductory Paragraph

Sentence #1: A Topic Sentence that introduces the story and maybe hints at the reason for the story or moral of the story.

Sentence #2 & 3: A Detail Sentence that introduces or tells more about the setting, which can include naming the place and the time and some details about the setting.

Sentences #3 & 4: Sentences that introduce the characters, what they are doing, and what they are saying. These characters are real people or creatures.

Sentence #5: Sentence about a beginning event in the story that leads into other events in the next paragraph OR a Thesis Statement introducing the remaining big events in the story. (Note: The problem can be introduced in this paragraph as well.)

Paragraph #2: Rising-Action Paragraph

Sentence #1: A Topic/Transition Sentence that introduces the problem and starts the sequence of events.

Sentences #2-7: Detail Sentences that describe the events of the story in a way that builds suspense as to whether the characters can solve the problem. These are Lead-off and Follow-up Sentences.

Paragraph #3: Climax Paragraph

Sentence #1: A Topic/Transition Sentence that leads into the climax of the story. It might introduce the crisis that the main character(s) are facing.

Sentences #2-7: Detail Sentences that further describe the crisis, the decision, and the initial actions followed to solve the problem. These sentences provide the turning point of the story. (Again, they are Lead-off and Follow-up Sentences.)

Paragraph #4: Falling-Action Paragraph

Sentence #1: A Topic/Transition Sentence that introduces an event in the falling action of the story that includes a problem-solving action.

Sentences #2-7: Detail Sentences that describe the problem-solving activities of the characters and the final solution (including Lead-off and Follow-up Sentences).

Paragraph #5: Concluding Paragraph

Sentence #1: A Topic/Transition Sentence that introduces an ending event related to the closing of the story.

Sentences #2-5: Detail Sentences that describe the events at the end of the story showing what the characters are doing as the story closes.

Sentence #6: A Clincher Sentence that ends the story and provides the resolution for the story, a moral of the story, or the author's message to the reader.