

Narrative Self-Editing Questions

from Dena Harrison, NNWP Consultant & Middle School Teacher

Narrative writing is simply storytelling. Please use the following questions to see whether you have applied the principles of good storytelling. (Make sure you can answer yes to each one!)

1. Does my opening catch a person's attention? Did I use any of the *Great Ways to Write Introductions and Leads*?
2. Is my narrative clear and to the point?
3. Is the material presented in a logical manner? Did I leave out any necessary details?
4. Does my writing have a clear beginning, middle and end?
5. Does my writing have vivid verbs and descriptions?
6. Is it easy for a listener or reader to follow along?
7. Have I put myself in my listener's or reader's place?
8. Have I made my story *interesting* enough to make people want to read all the way through?
9. Is my main point or "moral" to the story obvious?
10. Does my conclusion satisfy readers, rather than leave them hanging?
11. Would people who have heard the story be likely to want to retell it to others?

Now try reading your "story" out loud to someone you know — or at least read it out loud to yourself. The simple act of reading what you have written out loud will make you more aware of how it might be improved.