Narrative Writing Skills - Summary

Summary of Narration Chapter - Composition: Models and Exercises

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A Narrative

- Tells a story
 - Usually in chronological order
 - Maybe true or imaginary
 - In part
 - Wholly
 - Always answers the question:
 - What happened?

1. Key Events

- A. Move actions along
- B. Turning point or conclusion
- C. Give Insight into people in the story
- D. Help to create a desired emotional effect

2. Details

- A. Reveal character
- B. Make actions specific
- C. Offer explanations or reasons

3. Dialogue

- A. Conveys action
- B. Foretells events
- C. Reveal Character
 - speaker
 - or person spoken to

4. Description

- Makes the EVENTS clearly and vividly, seen, heard, felt
 - Helps us to picture the action
 - Understand the events fully
 - Provide sensory impressions
- Help to create atmosphere

5. Point of View

- Who is telling the story?
 - 1st person participant
 - 1st person observer
 - 3rd person omniscient

6. Variety in Sentence Structure

Variety in the simple sentence

IC

- No subordinate clause
- Prep phrase can be used as a predicate adjective
- Conjunctive adverb: Indeed
- Infinitive (to help)
- Prep phrase can modify the verb

Purpose

- State info simply and directly
- Emphasize important aspects of the subject matter
- When mixed with other sentences they provide a change of pace
- Add rhythm to a composition

Variety in the simple sentence (2)

- With appositives
- With compound predicates

Coordination in the compound Sentence

- Two or more closely related ideas of equal importance.
- Min # of ICs= 2
- Prep phrases, infinitive phrases, participial phrases don't make or define the compound sentence
- Can be joined by ", + conjunction, a semicolon, or in some cases, a colon.

Subordination in a complex sentence

- IC, DC
 - as many DC as you wish
- Subordinate Clause is:
 - Sub + pred, but can stand alone
 - does the job of an adjective, adverb, or noun in a sentence
 - Adjectives if it modifies an noun, or pronoun
 - Adverb if it modifies a verb, adverb, or adjective
 - Noun if it takes the place of a simple noun

Compound, complex

IC, IC, DC

Good writers use all 4!

- Simple
- Compound
- Complex
- Compound Complex