

6th Grade Narrative Essay: Introduction and Exposition

Who is your audience and what is your purpose for writing your fictional narrative?

“Step right up, ladies and gentlemen!”

“Behold!”

“Hear this!”

“Watch out!”

“Today only!”

There are lots of ways to get people's attention. Choosing the best way, and then holding people's attention, requires knowing your audience. If you're not giving people what they want, they may lose interest quickly. That's why it's crucial for you, as a writer, to know exactly who your potential readers are. Then you can choose your language, style, and content specifically to appeal to that audience.

You may not realize it, but you adjust what you say to suit your audience every day. You use different words and strike a different tone with your friends at the cafeteria lunch table than you do with your teacher in class or with your grandparents on a visit. You need to make those shifts in your writing as well.

When you prepare to write your own fictional narrative, you will also need to consider your audience—the people for whom you are writing. Each reader brings a unique set of experiences and a different point of view. When considering the audience for your story, think about the answers to these questions:

- Who will likely be reading my story?
- How do I think my audience will respond to my story's narrator and characters, and their conflict, or problem?
- How can I use techniques such as dialogue and description to make my events and characters lively and interesting to my audience?
- How familiar is my audience with the kind of story I am telling?
- Why am I trying to reach this audience?
- What theme (or message) about life do I want my audience to understand from reading my story?
- Who will be interested in hearing my theme (or message)?

Determining your audience will help you write a story that “grabs” your audience's attention and makes them think about life in a new or unexpected way.

Your Turn

Paragraph describing the setting of your story.

Paragraph(s) describing the main characters of your story

Paragraph describing the beginning of the conflict
