

6th Grade Narrative Essay: Conflicts

One way a writer develops the plot in a narrative is by using conflict and complications. To write these effectively, authors will use descriptions and descriptive details. In a story, the descriptive details help readers imagine the world in which the story takes place and the characters who live in it.

Descriptive details often use precise language—specific nouns and action verbs—to convey experiences or events. Many descriptive details use sensory language to appeal to one or more of the reader's five senses. Sensory words tell how something looks, sounds, feels, smells, or tastes.

In a story, it is easy to include many interesting details, but not every detail is relevant. For example, they can slow the pace of a story. It's a good idea to select only the most important, or relevant, details for your story. Think about what the reader really needs to know in order to understand or picture what is happening. Consider what your narrator actually knows and can share with the reader, especially if he or she is a character in the story. Then choose the details that will most help the readers imagine what the characters are experiencing, or how the events are happening.

Hint:

- Authors use specific nouns and strong verbs, adjectives and adverbs as appropriate, to help create vivid details of the severity of the problem.
- Description and descriptive details can help an author build the point of view or tone of the story. The relevant details show the reader that conflicts are getting worse.

Example of Descriptive Details

Precise words and phrases

Angry, I **tossed** the ball and **blew** the shot. The ball **bounced** off the edge of the hoop with a metallic bang and rolled out of bounds.

Relevant descriptive details

"No," I snapped **getting pretty angry myself**. "Why would I be afraid of those guys?"

Sensory language

I **snatched the ball away** from him and started dribbling.

As the writer planned the Student Model, he or she asked some questions to determine which descriptive details would be the most relevant:

- Will this detail help the reader understand who the character is, and why he or she thinks, says, feels, or acts a certain way?
- Will this detail help the reader understand what the character is experiencing?
- Does this detail use language that is interesting and will appeal to one or more of the reader's five senses?
- Will this detail add to the story and help it move forward, or will it slow down the pace of the story?

Your Turn

Begin writing conflict paragraphs using some descriptive details that appeal to the senses. Do this for each of the three conflicts in the rising action.

Conflict 1	
Conflict 2	
Conflict 3	

Have you clearly demonstrated the theme in these paragraphs?