

Narrative Writing Diamond

1. ENTERTAINING BEGINNINGS!

REMEMBER: Attention grabbing beginnings often use one of the following techniques.

- a. ACTION: Put the main character in the setting doing something.
- b. DIALOG OR EXCLAMATION: Have your main character say something.
- c. A SOUND: Use an interesting sound or unusual noise to capture the reader's attention.
- d. A THOUGHT OR QUESTION: Use a thought or a question to make the reader curious enough to read.

2. DESCRIPTION OF SETTING.

REMEMBER When you elaborate you stop the action and observe. Use the five senses!

- a. Your description should make the reader feel as though he or she is right there with the main character.
- b. Your description should be at least 3-4 sentences long.
- c. Remember that sentence variety is important!

3. BUILD SUSPENSE.

Remember one of the best ways to hold the reader's interest is to add 3 or 4 suspenseful sentences building up to the main event.

- a. Use the "magic of three" (3 details, three sentences, etcetera).
- b. Continue to build suspense by using word referents.
- c. Use the main character's thoughts and feelings to raise story questions.

4. THE MAIN EVENT!

REMEMBER: The main event is the most important part of a story!

- a. The main event should take up the largest amount of writing within a story.
- b. The main event should occur as though in slow motion - with every small detail told.
- c. Include the main character's feelings and reactions to the events.
- d. The main event is a time for the author to show off and really entertain! Maybe even exaggerate a little!

5. SOLUTION-CONCLUSION

(Same as "Main Event")

6. EXTEND THIS ENDING!

REMEMBER: Story ending should sum up the story and show how the main character has grown and changed. Extended endings often include:

- a. A memory of the main event
- b. The main character's feeling about the main event
- c. A decision that the main character makes.
- d. The main character's wish or hope.

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