

Show, Don't Tell

Narrative Writing

It is a beautiful day.

What is Descriptive Writing?

- Gives details about a person, place, or thing
 - Appeals to the five senses
 - Examines color, shape, size, etc.
- Describes a memory or an emotion
 - Uses imagery
 - Addresses who, what, when, where, why, and/or how

GOAL: Paint a vivid picture in the reader's mind.



Baseball

Telling:

It is a baseball.

Showing:

When I held it in my hand, it felt not much larger than an orange.

Brown scuffs of dirt covered what was once a pristine white.

I could almost hear the crack of the bat as my thumbs ran over the bumps of bright red stitching.



What am I showing you?

1. The cylindrical, slender shape was no wider than my pointer finger and rested tenderly in my hand.
2. As soon as I removed the lid, the chemical-like smell wafted up, gently tickling my nose.
3. The strong black line it produced stood in stark contrast to the white paper on which it glided.

Sharpie

Consider this:

- Appearance – Don't stop there!
- Texture
- Smell
- Sound
- Taste

Remember: Don't TELL me what it is, **SHOW** me!