

Adios, Strunk, and White

2 Form

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Types of essay formats:

1. Narrate
2. Define
3. Divide
4. Disarm

2. Form. Making Humpty Dumpty

A. Time warping: Ways to Narrate

1. Splitting the second
2. Flashback
3. Strip tease
4. Raising the dead

B. Encircling: Ways to define

1. Talking words
2. Blood flow
3. Animation

C. Layering: Ways to Divide

1. Sliced pie
2. Double Exposure
3. 13 ways

D. Bursting: Ways to Disarm

1. Devil's advice
2. Mocking with mass media
3. Trojan horse
4. Sincerely Yours

A. Time warping: Ways to Narrate

Narrating describes a sequence of actions (personal, scientific, business, political, historical). You are story telling. exaggerating, details to enhance, details to clarify, edit out details to open the flow of the narration. To intensify, blur the line between fact and fiction.

1. Splitting the second. Use this to slow down time.
2. Flashback. Focus on poignant events to show step-by-step events.
3. Strip tease. Ea. time step is a revelation & resets itself in a mini-climax.
4. Raising the dead. Incorporate imagination.

1. Splitting the second. Problem: The speed of an event blurs the details. Solution: Use the writing version of a stroboscope. Slice the action into separate, smaller segments. Use this to slow down time.

a) Splitting. Break down each moment of action, get the subtle details, carefully select details, and use style to fragment them & have them flow.

b) Toning. Use detailed verbs to establish reality and create an overall mood or attitude (choose specific verbs and specific synonyms of those to set a mood or attitude).

c) Fusing. Use metaphors, similies, and other sensory details (diversions, subconscious meanderings, kinesthetic details).

Carefully show the details rather than tell the reader what to think about reality. Stay away from subjective descriptions, stick w/objective. Use moods. Incorporate flow & pause, break-ups and line-up metaphors. Write as if it was someone famous or a specific artist or famous figure.

2. Flashback

3. Strip tease

4. Raising the dead