

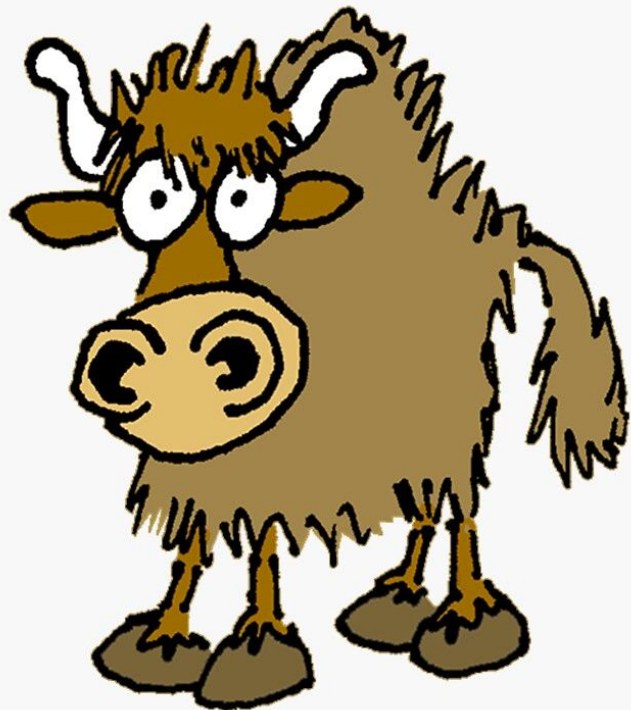


GENRE

AUDIENCE

POV CHARACTER

I talk so much
sometimes I don't
listen to myself...
I just drift in and out.



Yak Yak Yak

**Do you really need
that prologue . . .**

Or that backstory. . .

Or that character . . .



How do I balance action scenes and reflection scenes?



When is a scene over?





Is the story dragging in the middle?





How much time do you devote to secondary characters?



[illegible]

Show vs. Tell Practice



Show, Don't Tell #1

Abigail was starting to think that the murderer was right there in the room.

Dorcas decided to go to the state fair with her friends.

Emelda saw the boat waiting at the end of the dock.

Show, Don't Tell #2

Francois could see the storm rolling in off the bay.

Petermann stared in wonder at Forster's new anchor tattoo.

Today's lunch is being handled by Fine Young Cannibals catering.

Show, don't tell #3

Arthur had always worn the red scarf when he went on ski trips.

They went to dinner before they went to the movie.

Emelda saw the boat waiting at the end of the dock.

Show, don't tell #4

Eugene noticed the box on the porch when he went out to get the mail.

Mallory felt insulted when Rob gawked at the woman sitting at the table next to theirs.

Buford remembered to take the key with him when he left the house.

Pacing Practice





Conventions:

- New sheriff
- Missing woman
- Ticking clock
- Remote location
- Serial killer

Sheriff Pencoe pulled his coat tighter around his neck as he trudged the two blocks to the corner grocery. The pieces just weren't coming together. He'd interviewed all the witnesses, but he still wasn't sure who'd killed Caroline Bentley.



Conventions:

- Battling empires
- Uncertain succession
- Political enemies
- Citizen unrest
- Young, inexperienced captain (character)
- Mutiny

Captain Adam Fairchild had been a sunny-tempered child. He had grown into an eager, sunny-tempered youth, and when he joined the Spanish navy, his natural intelligence and easy way with people helped him quickly climb the ladder and become captain of his own ship.



Conventions:

- Life events
- Lessons learned
- Family trauma
- Triumph over past

Marge had to get out of the chair. The clock was ticking. If she didn't reach the phone in time, she would miss her daughter's call. Her heart beat hard. Her mouth was dry. What if her daughter didn't call? The important lesson Marge learned in her difficult childhood would never be shared.



Conventions:

- Dual POV
- Enemies to lovers
- Comedy
- Modern day
- Supportive friends
- Happy ending

In 2010, Cary and Pauline were married at Our Lady of Perpetual Suffering. The reception was held in the nearby Elks Lodge, and was attended by relatives on both sides of the family. Pauline's dress, a Chanel knockoff, was praised both for its clean lines and budget-friendly price tag.

1. Reexamine your manuscript for any areas where the pacing is too fast or too slow.
2. Spend some time reviewing the scenes you've already written.
3. Write your next scene!