



LET'S START WRITING

SETTING UP YOUR EXPOSITION

Miss Osborn





TIPS FOR WRITING EXPOSITION

01

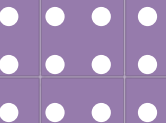
Show, Don't Tell

02

Use dialogue

03

Introduce your characters

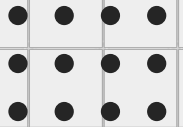




SHOW, DON'T TELL

Use descriptive language and use intriguing details! Set the scene of your story by describing the beginning of your story.





SHOW, DON'T TELL

Prompt: I woke up and realized...

I realized that the house was eerie quiet. I didn't hear the casual clink of the old china mugs that my old-fashioned mother uses for her morning tea, I didn't hear the hum of the fan that never stops if my furnace of a father is awake, and I didn't hear the chatter of the tv, informing the world of the news at 8 in the morning. I look around my bright white room, the sun peering through the curtains, and falling onto my white, fluffy comforter.

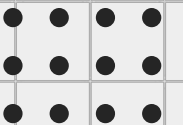
HOW?





USE DIALOGUE

Using descriptive language and informing us of the introduction of the story is important. But, break it up by setting the scene with dialogue. What does your main character say? Think? Set the scene with dialogue.



USING DIALOGUE

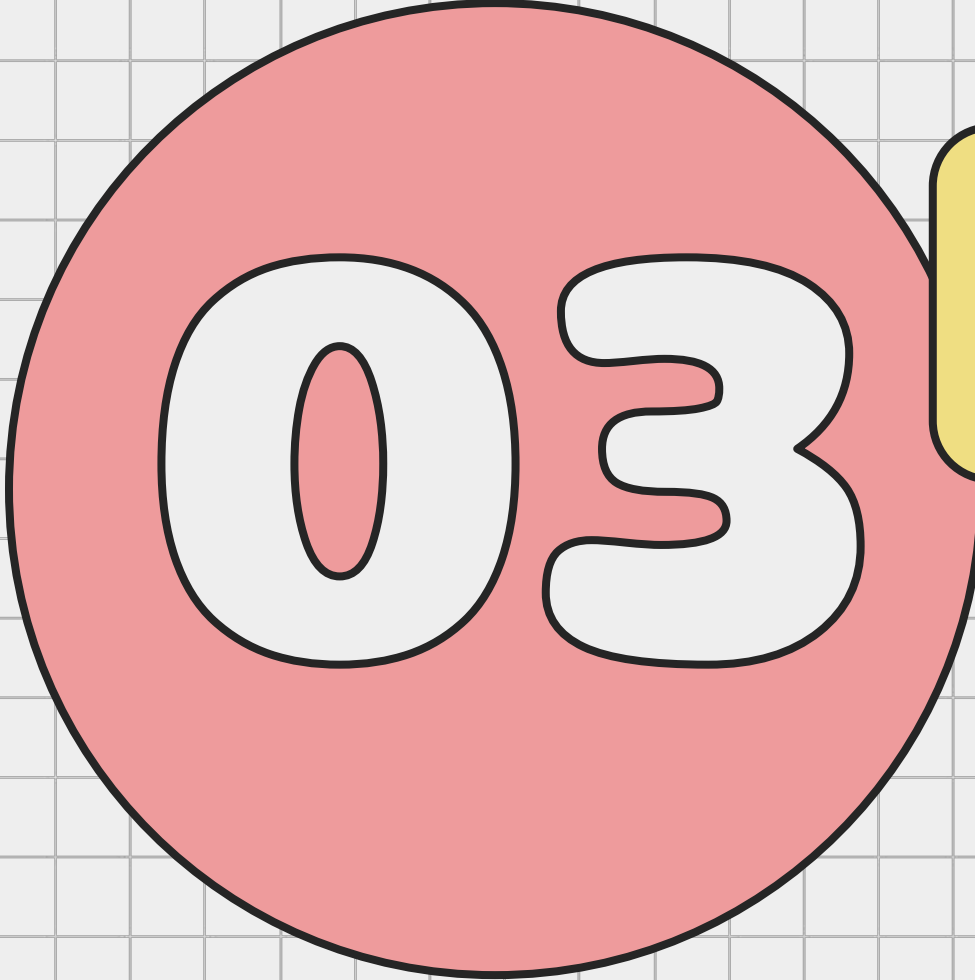

I realized that the house was eerie quiet. I didn't hear the casual clink of the old china mugs that my old-fashioned mother uses for her morning tea, I didn't hear the hum of the fan that never stops if my furnace of a father is awake, and I didn't hear the chatter of the tv, informing the world of the news at 8 in the morning. I look around my bright white room, the sun peeking through the curtains, and falling onto my white, fluffy comforter.

"Hello?" I yelled. Nothing. Not even the sound of a mouse was heard running over the floorboards. *This is odd*, I thought. I pick up my phone and call my best friend.

"I can't make it to my phone right now--" exclaims her voicemail as I quickly shut my purple Motorola Razor phone. My best friend always answers. Something is not right.

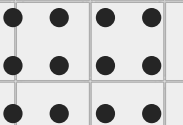


HOW?



INTRODUCE YOUR CHARACTERS

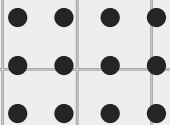
Use this time in the story to introduce us to some or all of your characters. Depending on your prompt, we might not meet all of the characters, but introduce us to the important ones.



INTRODUCE CHARACTERS

I jumped out of bed with a hurry, anxiety filling me till it hit the top of my throat as I ran around the house. I am not someone who typically nervous right away. I grew up with all older brothers and being the youngest girl teaches you how to be brave and courageous. I ran into my oldest brother's room, Steve, who is usually sleeping still as he works 12 hour shifts and doesn't get home until 1am.

"Steve?" I whisper. Nothing. I turn the light on and I see his bed still made from yesterday. My heart is pounding. I sprint to my parents' bedroom. My parents grew up in an era where sleeping in did not exist and they started their day, fully clothed and primped, at 7am. My mother, my fragile, old-fashioned mother, I hoped, would be finishing her tea in the window sill, holding a classic, as she reads with the birds chirping. No one is sitting in the bedroom. The bed is still made. The lights are off. No one is in the house.



SETTING UP YOUR STORY

TIPS

1

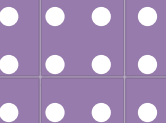
SHOW, DON'T TELL

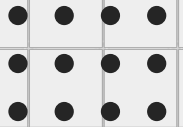
2

USE DIALOGUE

3

INTRODUCE
CHARACTERS

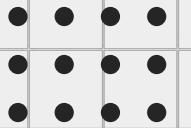




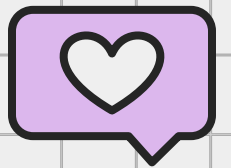
Don't forget your climax

- When setting up your exposition, don't forget that you are setting up a conflict
- What is going to be the main problem? Begin setting that up in your introduction
- Begin with the climax in mind





**UP NEXT: CHARACTER TRAITS
FOLLOWING: BEGIN YOUR
WRITING!**



— Irene M. Pepperberg