

How to tell a film-story

Telling a "film-story" is not really different from telling a normal "text-story".

The **camera** is your **narrator** and provides different points of view - depending on what you would like to tell and how you intend to present it.

Of course, **sound** and **cuts** support the pictures.

So, you can have an **objective narrator**, i. e. the camera just shows everything **without explaining** that much (or maybe nothing at all).

A **first-person narrative** in film means, we get **the view of a certain person** (or object!), i. e. we see things as the character who tells the story sees them.

As a **selective narrator**, the camera would show the **actions, thoughts and emotions of one character** or maybe two protagonists, showing them 'from the outside'.

An **omniscient narrator** or camera would **give insights into almost everybody's lives** and reveal more information than the characters themselves have (e. g. DEA officer Hank does not know that Walter, his own brother in law, is the notorious drug producer "Heisenberg", but the viewers know (as they are told by pictures and sound). This creates a lot of **suspense** and sometimes even funny situations.

Further narrative devices:

- **flashbacks**
- **statements / insinuations about the future**
- **parallel storytelling ...**

Assignments

① Please watch the video:

How to Analyse a Film - Cinematic Techniques

This video will teach you how to analyse a film, showing you a variety of cinematic techniques and explaining their effect.



② Now make a plan of **HOW** you are going to tell your story.

③ Finally turn your plan into a film of about 2-3 minutes.



Worksheet film language

English

Evaluation of your film

Your film ...

... has a good plot.	
... uses cinematic devices (camera angle, field size, ...) to create meaning.	
... contains sound conveying a message.	
... proves your English language skills to be quite nice.	
... gets grade ...	points

