

Author's Point of View

When writing, authors must decide from what point of view they want to express their ideas. There are three different choices – first person, second person, and a variety of third person point of views. The type of pronouns and the genre can be a clue when identifying the author's point of view.

FIRST PERSON	
Definition	Clues
A character within the story recounts/retells his or her own experiences or impressions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lets the reader know only what that character knows.• Uses the pronouns <i>I, me, my, mine, we, our, ours.</i>

SECOND PERSON	
Definition	Clues
The story or the piece of writing is from the perspective of “you.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uncommon form of writing.• Used mainly with instruction manuals, recipes, giving directions, and poetry.• Uses the pronouns <i>you, yours.</i>

THIRD PERSON OBJECTIVE

Definition	Clues
The narrator remains a detached observer, telling only the story, action, and dialogue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lets the reader know only what is seen and heard, not what characters think or feel.• Uses the pronouns <i>he, she, it, they</i>.

THIRD PERSON LIMITED

Definition	Clues
The narrator tells the story from the viewpoint of one character in the story.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lets the reader know what one character thinks, sees, knows, hears, and feels.• Uses the pronouns <i>he, she, it, they</i>.

THIRD PERSON OMNISCIENT

Definition	Clues
The narrator has unlimited knowledge and can describe every character's thoughts and interpret their behaviors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lets the reader know unlimited information about the characters.• Uses the pronouns <i>he, she, it, they</i>.