Point of View

The point of view is basically the lens through which you tell a story, or the type of narrator used in telling a story. The point of view of the story can dramatically change the way a reader feels about it. For instance, think of a time you’ve fought with a sibling. Your version of what happened will be quite different than your brother’s version. The one your parents here first may determine just who is punished and how badly. There are several different types of point of view for you to consider.

**First Person**—With this point of view, the narrator is telling a story about themselves. You will hear the words I and me often in these types of stories. This means that the narrator may be exaggerating or leaving things out as suits their story.

**Second Person**—This type of writing is rare. In fact, I only really see it in Choose Your Own Adventure stories. With this, YOU are a part of the story. The word you is used often, and you have to decide where the story goes.

**Third Person**—In this type of narration, the person telling the story isn’t in the story, but tells it from the outside. Words like He, she, they are featured here. However, there are different types of this point of view as well.

**Third person Objective**—This narrator only tells what can be seen, no emotions or thoughts here unless they are stated out loud.

**Third person Omniscient**—This narrator can go anywhere and see into anyone’s mind. They can see the thoughts of all.

**Third Person Limited**—This narrator can see the thoughts of only a select group (usually only one person). It is different than first person because it is not told from that person (I, me) but from the outside with the inclusion of their thoughts.

Some authors like to swap between different points of view. This is a nice tactic, if you have multiple stories going on; however, you must be careful to stay consistent. The reader should ALWAYS know just who they are following at all times. They should be able to immediately discover who is narrating that section and what to expect from that narrator. Once it gets confusing, it is no longer a good style. Also, be careful that you don’t switch only at the very end of a book. This can be a cheap trick when your main character dies suddenly, so it must be done carefully.