

Crafting Voice in Narrative Writing

Voice is the energy, intention, and tone behind a piece of writing. Sometimes people call it the “personality” behind the writing. Writers shape the voice of their text or their characters based on the intended audience.

Look at the example provided, and then try experimenting with different voices on your own.

Voice	Topic	Writing
Shy and timid	First day at a new summer camp	I hug my backpack close to my chest as I sit on the wooden bench in the camp’s huge gathering area. There are swarms of kids my age hugging and laughing, sharing secret handshakes I assume they made up last year. My dad wants me to love this camp just as much as he did, but it’s hard being the only new kid. Suddenly, a tall girl with dark hair plops down beside me, smiling warmly. I gulp, and manage a small smile back at her.
Outgoing and confident		I take a deep breath of the fresh, summer air filled with possibility. All around me I feel the buzz of excitement as old camp friends hug and laugh and show off their elaborate secret handshakes. It’s my first day here, and I can’t wait to make new friends as we hike and swim and explore. My dad loved this place as a kid, so I know I will, too. Suddenly, a tall girl with dark hair walks up to me, smiling warmly. I flash her a big grin in return.

Voice	Topic	Writing
Shy and timid	Auditioning for a play	
Outgoing and confident		

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Try writing with another set of voices and a new topic.

Voice	Topic	Writing
Frantic and anxious	Traveling to a new place	
Calm and easygoing		

Now try coming up with your own voices and topic!

Voice	Topic	Writing