

POINT-OF-VIEW (POV) refers to the way a story is told. Stories use different points of view to give different **perspectives** of a story. Imagine a perspective as a camera angle focusing on something – each camera angle would show things differently. Typically, **POV** is divided into the following types:

1. **FIRST PERSON:** The person telling the story is a character within the story, and narrates things as they see it. Usually this character uses “I”, “we”, etc. to show their direct involvement. The character does not need to be the main character but is somehow involved with what is happening within the plot.
2. **SECOND PERSON:** This is a rare form and involves the narrator referring to a character in the story as “you”, which makes the reader feel like they are directly involved in the story. The narrator may also include references to “I”, which means the narrator is also involved.
3. **THIRD PERSON:** In this case a narrator who is not involved with the story tells it, using words such as “he”, “they”, or “them”. This is by far the most common type of POV.

A story also includes a **NARRATIVE VOICE**, which describes the way a story is given to the audience. Again, there are different types:

1. **Stream-of-Consciousness:** The character’s thought processes are given while the story is told. An example would be the song “Bohemian Rhapsody” by Queen, which tells the story through the character’s mind.
2. **Character Voice:** Common in first and third POV. A person is the narrator and simply tells the story as it happens. “Charles” is an example of a story with a character voice.
3. **Unreliable Voice:** The story is told by someone whose information is sketchy. “The True Story of the Three Little Pigs” includes an unreliable narrator.
4. **Third-Person Limited:** The story is told by a narrator but only some of the character’s thoughts, feelings and actions are revealed to the reader.
5. **Third Person Objective:** The story is told by a narrator but no character’s thoughts are shown and it is up to the reader to figure out information about the character.
6. **Third Person Omniscient:** The story is told by a narrator and the reader is able to see all the main character’s thoughts, feelings and actions.