THE P.E.T. Strategy – Details that Enhance **VOICE** in your Writing

PERSONALITY – The 3 Methods of Revealing a Character’s Personality in Your Writing:

* Style – Personality is revealed through the author’s writing style
  + Monday, October second, was looking like one of the *best* days of Andrea’s life. By the time the clock struck 9:15 a.m., her makeup had run from her eyes to my chin, her binder was a disorganized mess on the floor, and her computer had frozen for the fifth time. ‘What more could a person ask for?’ I thought to myself.
* Inferring – Personality is revealed through the character’s actions
  + I walked into the room and saw that Andrea’s makeup was running down her cheeks, her binder’s contents were strewn all over the floor, and her computer screen was frozen. “Looks like you’re having a great day,” I said as I walked past her towards my own desk.
* Telling – Personality is reveal through the things the author actually says
  + People tell me I’m sarcastic.

EMOTIONS – Details that communicate how the author/character feels about something that happens

* I felt like a crumpled up piece of paper someone had tried to toss into the garbage, but missed and didn’t even care enough to pick up and try again.
* I couldn’t hold back my tears any longer – my Uncle Ted had been one of the most important people in my life since I was two, and now he was gone.

THOUGHTS – Details that communicate what the author/character thinks about something that happens

* I thought about calling it quits, and just going home for the day, but after some careful consideration, I decided that it would be more work to catch up on homework than to just try to make it through 6 more hours of school.
* I didn’t know what I was going to do without Uncle Ted, but I knew that I couldn’t let myself cry in front of my younger sister. I knew I had to stay strong in front of her, because if I lost it, she would, too. I had to show her everything would be okay.

**Your Turn:**

**Step 1:** Read through your anecdote and highlight all the of the P(ersonality), E(motion) and T(hought) details you can find. Try to find 3-5 of each.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| P  Personality  (Need: 3-5) | E  Emotion  (Need: 3-5) | T  Thought  (Need: 3-5) |
|  |  |  |

**Step 2:** If you do not have 3-5 of each type of detail highlighted, use the chart below to come up with some more to further your anecdote’s VOICE.