

SPECTRUM TUITION PTY LTD

PRACTICE EXERCISE 1 – NARRATIVE WRITING

The plans below are much too broad and don't focus on one scene, meaning they would be very difficult to write on in 15 minutes. Rewrite them in the tables provided using only the events that contribute to the action in *one* scene. For example:

Too broad:

- John wakes up in the morning, ready to go on his expedition
- He gets stuck in traffic on the way
- He goes to the rock pool searching for a rare gem
- He explains what the gem is and where it comes from
- He explains the time he first heard about the gem from his father, who then died of a heart attack
- He explains the research he did at the library, and how long it took
- Back at the rock pool, he's still looking for the gem
- Then he finds it.

The problems with this plan are:

- *It doesn't start at the right place: the problem is John searching for the gem, not waking up in the morning or getting stuck in traffic*
- *It doesn't focus enough on this problem: how John found out about the gem is not relevant – what is relevant is his search for the gem, which barely appears in this plan*
- *There is no climax: finding the gem isn't a very engaging ending, as this is exactly what John wanted. The narrative should end at a more exciting point.*

Focused:

Problem	John is searching for a rare gem in the rock pool – the future of his career depends on finding this gem.
Events	He is finding it difficult to see underwater He begins to panic, worried that he'll never find the gem He spies the entrance to an underwater cavern and cautiously makes his way in He spies the gem and pulls it free! But his oxygen is running out And he can't find his way back to the entrance of the cavern
Climax	Blindly, in the depths of the ocean, he searches for an exit...

1. Too broad: Fiona makes breakfast – reads the newspaper – gets ready to go out – heads to the beach – finds an isolated rock pool – takes a dip – gets caught – struggles to free herself – calls for help – is finally rescued – goes home having learnt her lesson about swimming in isolated rock pools

Focused:

Problem	
Events	
Climax	