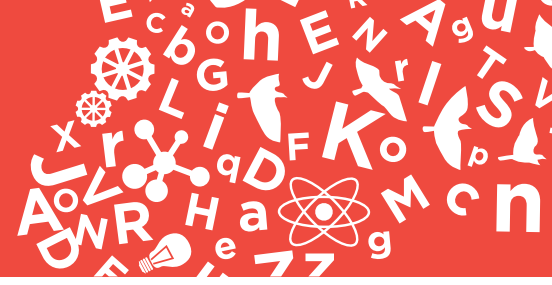


# LESSON 4: PACING



## WHAT IS PACING?

How time is used and manipulated in a piece of writing

Length, scope, and style or type of writing are all related to pacing.

## THE $\frac{1}{4}$ RULE IN NARRATIVE LONG FICTION

All of the important information, including main characters, basic conflict, and exposition are presented within the first  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the book

**Middle:** at least half- $\frac{3}{4}$  of the book

**Conclusion:** climax and resolution -  $\frac{1}{4}$  or less

## PACING FOR SHORTER PIECES

### 5-Paragraph Structure

**1 paragraph:** Intro - includes thesis, main conflict, or topic

**3 paragraphs:** Body - each paragraph explores a different aspect related to the thesis

**1 paragraph:** Conclusion - sum up thesis, resolution, take-away

***Tip:** In a shorter piece, it is even more crucial to engage the reader's interest early on. See Module 3, Lesson 4: Opening Line*

### **Speed up pacing with:**

- Dialogue
- Lists
- Short sentences or conversational tone

### **Slow down pacing with:**

- Description
- Exposition
- Longer, more formal or stylized sentences
- Shifting perspective or tangential information



### **CHALLENGE**

Use a paragraph from a piece of your own writing. If you are currently working on something, use that. Rewrite the paragraph so that it changes the pacing. Experiment with dialogue, sentence structure, and tone. Next, go back and read your whole piece with this new paragraph. How does this change the pace of the entire article? Do you see new possibilities to get across the same information in a different way?

**Email your challenge to [laurelnakai@gmail.com](mailto:laurelnakai@gmail.com) by Oct 24**