

# Point of View Activity



Students respond to a short article and must then write two paragraphs from two different points of view about events in the article

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# Point of View Notes

“Point of view “ is the perspective from which a story is told. It’s the view we get from the narrator in the story and determines how much we (as the reader) get to know about each character’s thoughts and feelings.

## Inside Points of View

### First Person

- Usually narrated by the main character
- The reader sees and knows only as much as the main character does
- We know what the main character is thinking and feeling, but not what anyone else is thinking or feeling.
- Written in First Person—Uses “I, me, we...”
- Example— I walked through the school hallways nervous about what people were thinking. My heart sunk when I saw my friends turn their backs on me and walk away.

### Third Person Limited Omniscient

- Narrated by one person in the story—usually the main character
- The readers sees and knows only as much as the main character does.
- We know what the main character is thinking and feeling, but not what anyone else is thinking or feeling.
- Written in Third Person—Uses “he, she, they...”
- Example— Suzanne walked through the school hallways nervous about what people were thinking. Her heart sunk when she saw her friends turn their backs on her and walk away.

## Outside Points of View

### Third Person Objective

- The narrator can only record what is seen and heard.
- Readers do not know what is going on in the characters’ minds and hearts.
- The readers is like a spectator with no inside information.
- Written in Third Person—Uses “he, she, they...”
- Example— Suzanne walked through the school hallways, darting her head nervously from side to side. Her shoulders slumped when she saw her friends turn their backs and walk away.

### Third Person Omniscient

- An all-seeing, all-knowing point of view that allows the reader to learn about all characters.
- The narrator has the ability to get into the hearts and minds of any and all characters
- Readers get an opportunity to understand the characters’ motives, hopes, fears and actions.

# Short Story—Point of View

## Death of a Collector (Adapted from Time Magazine—Apr. 9, 1973)

Washington, DC—Throughout most of his 53 years and various careers, Jesse B. Thomas of Washington, D.C., had been a compulsive collector. As a member of the Merchant Marine, an editor for a Tokyo newspaper (Japanese was among his six languages), a naval historian, and a part time cab driver, he had amassed a staggering collection of junk— hand-tinted Japanese slides, 30 broken umbrellas, first-day issue of stamps, old cottage cheese containers, nautical charts and Oriental alter pieces.

Over the years friends and family had tried to help Mr. Thomas clean up his

apartment and organize some of his belongings. However, his collections only grew larger over time.

In addition to collecting, Thomas had acquired an annoying habit of not paying his rent.

Over the last year, his landlord had given him several warnings about his overdue rent and then eventually took him to court. Mr. Thomas was ordered to pay his rent or face eviction.

Last week, to carry out a court-ordered eviction, a deputy U.S. marshal and a crew of twelve moved into his apartment and dragged his belongings onto the sidewalk. There, passerby began to loot and destroy.

When Mr. Thomas returned to see his treasures scattered about, and people taking what they pleased, he collapsed on the sidewalk from a heart attack.

Although paramedics were called, within half an hour, he had died.

His neighbors argued over who was to blame: his landlord for showing too little compassion; each other, for showing too much greed; or the local police for not protecting his property.

On one point, they agreed: Jesse Thomas had died of a broken heart.

What point of view was used to write this article? Is it effective? Why or why not?

How would this article be different if it were written in first person point of view? Third person point of view?

How do you think point of view relates to your opinion? Would your opinion of the events be different with a different point of view?



# Point of View Assignment

After reading “Death of a Collector” think about the power of point of view. How can point of view add bias to an article or story? How can you use point of view to create emotion in a story?

Your task is to write two different paragraphs from two different points of view about the “Death of a Collector”. In order to develop the narrator’s emotions and point of view you may include details that are not in the original story. Keep in mind the perspective you are writing from and use your thoughts and feelings to add emotion to the story.

## Your writing must:

- Be at least 1/2 page for each account
- Include the thoughts and feelings of the narrator
- Be creative and descriptive
- Be spellchecked and edited for grammar mistakes

Write a **1st person** account from one of the following perspectives.

- Jesse Thomas
- Landlord
- Neighbor
- Policeman / Paramedic
- Check with your teacher if you have another idea

Write a **3rd person limited** account for one of the following

- Jesse Thomas’ family
- The judge who ordered him evicted
- US Marshals who had to remove his collection
- Passerby on the street
- Check with your teacher if you have another idea



# “Death of a Collector”

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>Not Quite Yet</b> 2 marks	<b>Good Start</b> 3 marks	<b>You did it!</b> 4 marks	<b>Wow!</b> 5 marks
<b>Main Article</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not written in the correct point of view</li> <li>• Point of view changes through the article</li> <li>• Shows little to no understanding of the original article.</li> <li>• No attempt to use point of view to create an emotional response</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written in the correct point of view</li> <li>• Point of view is mostly consistent, one or two small errors.</li> <li>• Shows a basic understanding of the original article.</li> <li>• Attempted to use point of view to create an emotional response</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written in the correct point of view</li> <li>• Point of view is consistent.</li> <li>• Interesting story that relates to original article</li> <li>• Shows understanding of the original article</li> <li>• Good use of point of view to create an emotional response</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written in the correct point of view</li> <li>• Point of view is consistent.</li> <li>• Relates to facts about the original story</li> <li>• Shows in-depth understanding of the article</li> <li>• Effectively use point of view to create an emotional response.</li> </ul>
<b>Conventions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frequent errors in simple writing</li> <li>• Run-on sentences or fragments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Errors in basic language are noticeable</li> <li>• Some run-on sentences / fragments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May be some errors in complex language</li> <li>• Most sentences are correct</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occasional errors with complex and complicated writing</li> <li>• Well-edited</li> </ul>

**Comments:**



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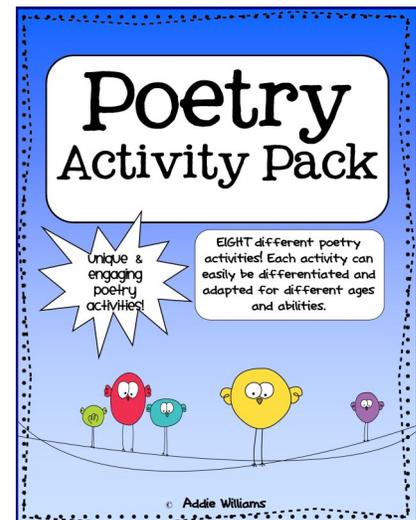
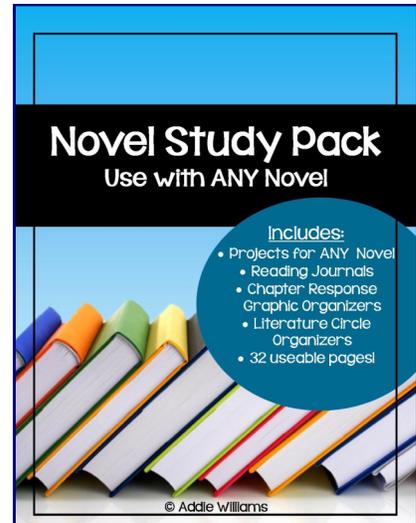
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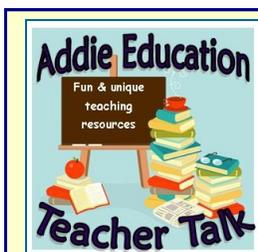
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~Addie Williams