

Prewriting ■ Add dialogue.

Dialogue makes a personal narrative come alive with added information about the experience. It reveals the speakers' personalities and keeps the action moving. The chart below shows how a writer can express the same idea with or without dialogue. (The dialogue examples are taken from the model on pages 93–94.)

Show a speaker's personality

Without Dialogue

I reluctantly got involved with a fund-raiser.

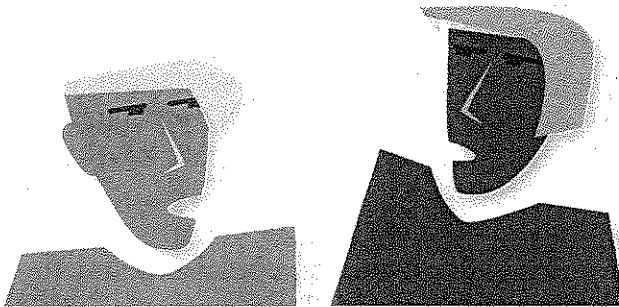
With Dialogue

"Sure, okay, I'll do this Hope thing," I sighed, . . .

Keep the action moving

Kendra said that I could turn in my pledge sheet, which was totally empty of pledges.

"You can hand in your pledge sheet now, if you want," she said. Suddenly I looked at my empty sheet. That's how I was feeling inside, empty.



Add information

I discovered that Kendra's mom was battling cancer.

"I didn't know—" I mumbled.

"It's okay. She's going to beat it." Kendra pulled out her pledge sheet.



Consider dialogue for your narrative. For practice, write some dialogue that would be appropriate near the beginning of your narrative. (See page 120 for information about punctuating dialogue.)