

# Outline for a Paper on a Person You Know

You're going to write about someone you know using a combination of narrative (story-telling), description, and dialogue. But how should you order it? You could tell one long narrative that contains description and dialogue. You could first provide a strong description of your person followed by a narrative and dialogue. You could begin the paper with a dialogue between the person and someone else—a dialogue that reveals something important about that person—then follow this with a description and narrative.



There are many approaches to this, but consider what you want to communicate about your subject and how best to do so. Look over your ideas from brainstorming, and decide which are important to keep in the paper and how best to order them. Then create your outline. Here's an example of an outline for a paper where the writer wants to focus on what a good friend Jana is:

- I. Introduce who Jana is
  - A. How we met
  - B. Quote something from a letter Jana wrote me about friendship
- II. Description of Jana
  - A. physical (hair, face, etc.)
  - B. voice
  - C. how graceful she is
- III. Story about the time Jana helped me when my dog died
  - A. dialogue between us at the vet's office
- IV. Description of Jana's personality
  - A. friendly
  - B. helpful
  - C. caring
- V. Conclusion

Here you can see the writer's focus, beyond painting a basic picture of Jana, is her friendship with Jana. She's not just giving you random information about her. There's

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