

Dialogue Writing

Method of procedure:

1. Carefully think over the subject given, and jot down briefly the arguments or opinions about it which might reasonably be expressed by the imaginary persons who are supposed to be talking.
2. Arrange these ideas in some logical order, so that one will arise naturally from another in the course of the conversation.
3. Try to imagine what would be the way in which each character in the dialogue would express his/her views.
4. Keep in mind that your dialogue, when completed, should read like a real, spontaneous conversation. Avoid stilted and bookish phrases. Try to remember how real people talk in a friendly conversation, and reproduce that conversation style as well as you can.

Special Hints

1. a) Don't let any of your characters monopolize the discussion, as if he/she were giving a public lecture. Let the conversation be brisk and rapid.

- b. In real conversation, one person sometimes interrupts the other, or breaks in on what he is saying. A sparing use of such interruptions in written dialogue is quite permissible, and adds to its naturalness.

For example:

A- "I am perfectly certain he would never do such thing.

Why, only the other day he told me -"

B- "I don't care what he told you! I know he did it."

2. In real conversation people often use exclamations, surprise - and so on. Such interjections may be introduced from time to time, sparingly; but the use of them should not be overdone.

3. The dialogue should begin in an ~~into~~ interesting way, and the conversation should reach a definite conclusion. It should not end abruptly.

4. Keeping these points in view, write your dialogue in as natural, interesting and realistic manner as possible.

The whole conversation should be brief, and the questions and replies as concise and pointed as possible.