

# Showing, Not Telling

Interesting and lively writing doesn't just tell about things in general terms. Instead, it shows readers something through descriptive details – examples, facts, feelings, and quotations. Below are some examples.

<b>Telling a Feeling</b>	I was proud of my photos.
<b>Showing a Feeling</b>	I looked at my photos over and over again. Then I put them in a photo album and showed them off to friends.
<b>Telling About a Character</b>	Enrique is a picky eater.
<b>Showing a Character</b>	The only foods Enrique will eat are hamburgers, hot dogs, and salad.
<b>Telling About an Event</b>	Some relatives visited us last weekend.
<b>Showing an Event</b>	My uncle, aunt, and six cousins slept on our floor in sleeping bags last weekend.
<b>Telling About an Idea</b>	The Duotones rock band is better in concert than the Beatgirls.
<b>Showing an Idea</b>	The Duotones have sold out more concerts and had more complimentary concert reviews than the Beatgirls.

**Responding to Literature** When you write a response to a piece of literature, you can tell your interpretations of events or characters as long as you use specific examples, reasons, and quotations from the text to show how you arrived at that conclusion.

**Telling** The narrator's grandma in "The Horned Toad" preferred living in the country instead of the city.

**Showing** She took daily walks in an unpaved city lot, looking for reminders of her life in the country. If she found a plant, she'd say, "In all this ugliness, it lives."