

Lesson Skill: Maintaining consistent point of view

Strand Writing

SOL 6.8
7.8
8.8

Materials

- Copies of several news articles of interest to students

Lesson

1. Discuss a recent selection read in class, such as a poem, short story, article, or excerpt from a novel. Ask students how the selection would be different if it were retold from the point of view of a different character.
2. Select a current news article of interest to students, and change several details so the point of view is inconsistent. (Online newspaper articles are easy to manipulate.) Share the revised article with the class, and ask students to note any difficulty they might have understanding it. Lead a discussion about the difficulties encountered and the reasons for them. This should lead into a discussion of the importance of maintaining consistent point of view.
3. Distribute another news article with inconsistent point of view, and have students practice correcting the errors.
4. Remove the middle section of another news article, and have students practice using consistent point of view when drafting a middle section for it. Give them freedom to supply whatever details they wish for the missing section, as long as the point of view remains consistent.