

Narrative Writing

How to Build Tension in Your Story

Make the problem or issue harder to solve.

Make it unlikely for your hero/heroine to succeed.

Create an argument between two characters.

Use the senses (see, hear, taste, feel, smell) to describe the environment.

Use the senses (see, hear, taste, feel, smell) to describe the character's experience.

Build suspense by holding off on crucial details, but give some clues.

Use short, sharp sentences to create dramatic impact and shock the reader.

Look for more appropriate synonyms.

Use imagery techniques, like similes and metaphors, to create a thought picture.