Thursday, September 22, 7:00-9:00 pm

**Point of View and Voice: Key Points**

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POV is the meeting place of character and plot, the nexus between the people you’re writing about and the story you’re trying to tell.

 — It imbues our writing with emotion by bringing human context to our plots.

 — It gives our writing its unique voice.

 — It builds emotional attachments between readers and characters.

 — It facilitates the communication of background information about character and setting to our readers.

 — It informs how we approach every element of our storytelling.

**Point of view decisions:**

 — What voice do we want for our stories? First person? Close third person? Other possible options?

 — Do we want a single point of view character or several?

 — Who is best suited to be our point of view character(s)?

**Maintaining point of view:**

 — Avoid “head-hopping.” In other words, we shouldn’t switch point of view in the middle of a scene without signaling that we’re doing so with a section or chapter break.

 — Preserve the integrity of point of view by not telling our readers anything our POV character(s) can’t or don’t know.

 — Use point of view to decide what details and background information to share and when. We should constantly ask ourselves, what is relevant to our point of view character at any given moment?

**Emotion and point of view:**

 — POV allows us to write from a place of emotional power. Our POV characters are guides for our readers, providing the emotional and observational sign posts readers need to make sense of our stories.