



# Creative Writing Course

*by*  
*Tolulope Popoola*  
*Author, Publisher and Writing Coach*

[www.accomplishpress.com](http://www.accomplishpress.com)

## Lesson 3

**Please use this workbook to write down your plans for choosing a Point of View for your story.**

## Course Notes

### Part 3 – Choosing Your Novel’s Point of View (POV)

Now you have chosen your protagonist, and you know who your story should focus on. Now closely related to this, is the novels’ point of view. How do you tell the story of your characters? Which narrative works best? There are many different types of point of view, but the most common ones are:

First person, second person, third person limited narrative and the omniscient view narrative.

**The first person POV** refers to the I, we, me, my, mine, us narrator, often the voice of the main character or the main characters in the story. The advantage of the first person narrative is that it comes naturally to most writers. It can create a distinctive internal voice and your reader gets to read the thoughts and motives of one character at a time. It also creates a closeness to the character, because the reader experiences the story directly through the eyes of one character.

**Example:** *I called him, but he wasn’t answering his phone. I immediately decided to pay John a visit tomorrow.*

**The second person POV** is when the writer uses “you” to describe all the actions and emotions going on in the story. This POV is rarely used in long fiction, such as novels but more commonly used in short stories.

**Example:** *You called him, but he wasn’t answering his phone. You immediately decided to pay John a visit tomorrow.*

**The third person POV** uses he, she, it, they, them narrator. This POV is the most common in modern fiction. It offers a variety of possibilities for limiting omniscience: information that the narrator and reader are privy to in the telling of the story.

**In third-person unlimited omniscience**, the author can show us the thoughts of any character, and the story can shift from one character’s POV to another. Stories written this way can benefit from the contrasting viewpoints and conflicting points of view. However, the story might get confusing if there are too many character’s points of view and their voices are not distinctive enough to tell them apart.

**In third person limited omniscience**, the author enters the mind of just a few characters, usually one per chapter or scene.

Each of these POVs can work well for any novel, it's up to you as the author to choose which one suits your story, and which one you're most comfortable with.

I personally enjoy writing in first-person. I like getting into the head of my character, seeing things through their eyes, and letting the story unfold through their thoughts and emotions. Most of my short stories are written in first person POV.

For my novel, *Nothing Comes Close*, I had two protagonists, Lola and Wole. I wrote the story in first person POV and alternated the chapters between the two main characters.

I've received feedback from many people regarding this narrative method, and most people said that they enjoyed getting to read from the two lead characters in the book. Usually in most romance novels, the reader gets to experience the story from the heroine's POV, so it was quite unusual that *Nothing Comes Close* allowed the reader a glimpse into the hero's POV too. I'm really glad that readers like it, because I enjoyed writing both characters and the differences in their views.

Please note, that your POV can change by the time you get half-way through the writing of the story, or even when you're in the subsequent drafts. It is not unusual for an author to decide to change the POV of their book, during the editing process.

Now, let's proceed to the workbook.

## **Workbook 3 – Choosing Your Novel’s Point of View**

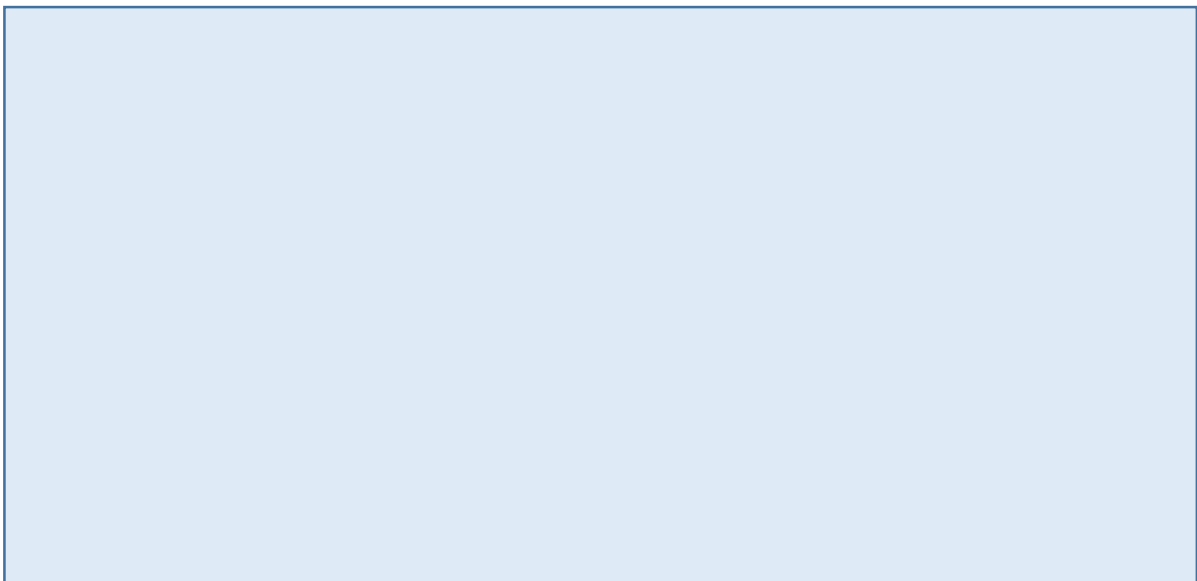
So you now have a story idea, and you have your main characters.

Now, how do you narrate the story? Would you narrate it from the eyes of one character as in first person point of view, or from an omniscient point of view?

**If you’ve written a novel or short stories before, what POV do you usually write in?**



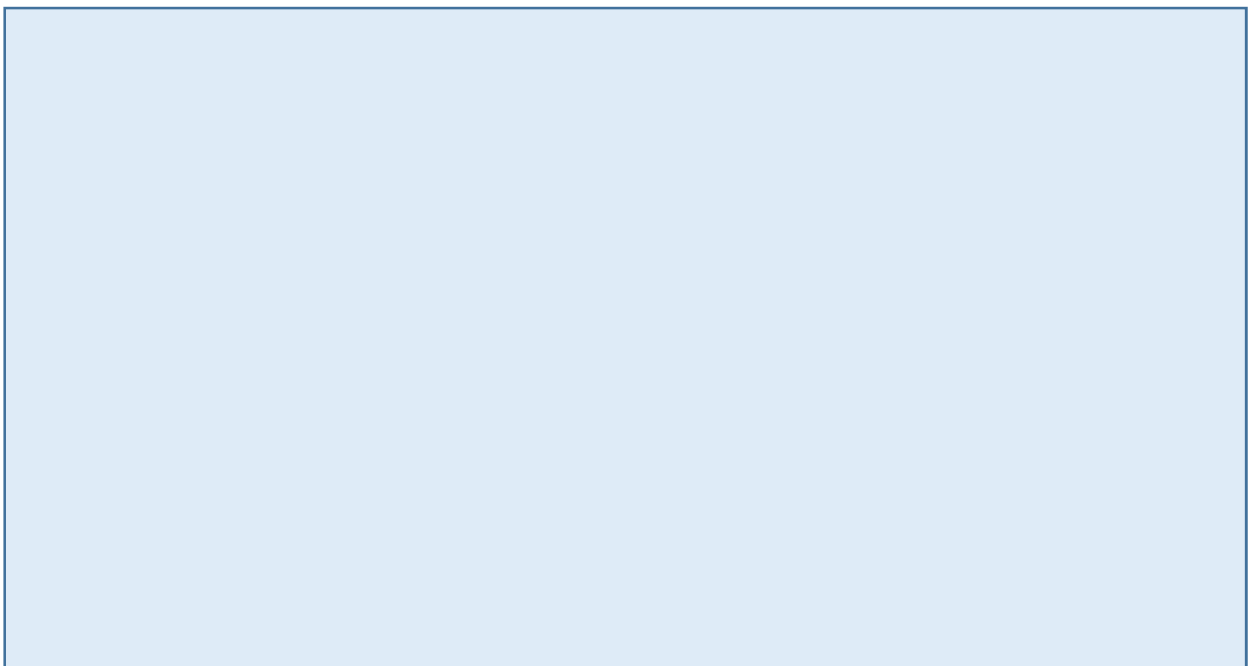
**Which POV do you think works best for the story you’re trying to write?**



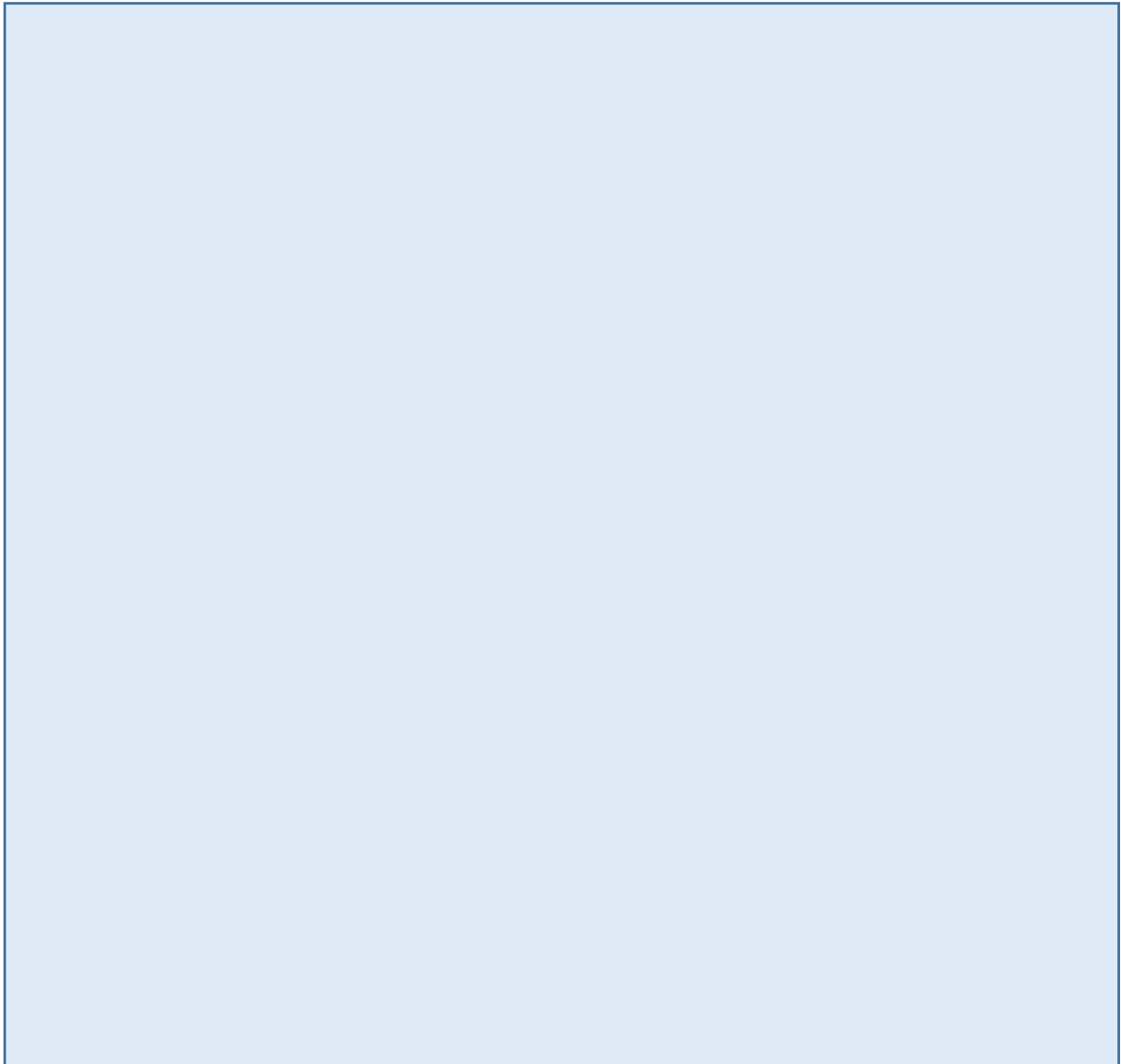
**If you have more than one main character, will they all have their own POV if you're writing in first person?**



**If you choose to write in third person, would you be writing from a limited POV or an omniscient POV?**



**Write down a sample paragraph using your story idea and main characters. Use three different POVs for this example. Which one sounds the best to you?**



**Based on your examples in the box above, would you be inclined to stick to your chosen POV, or switch to a different one?**

