

Writers Workshop: What is Voice?

A memoir or story has voice if it has these three elements: **Personality, Color, and Emotion.**

What does this mean?

	Example	Definition
Personality	"If you really want to hear about it, the first thing you'll probably want to know is where I was born, and what my lousy childhood was like, and how my parents were occupied and all before they had me, and all that David Copperfield kind of crap, but I don't feel like going into it, if you want to know the truth." - <i>The Catcher in the Rye</i> by J.D. Salinger	
Color	"And he could see, though his eyes were closed. He could see a bright, whirling torrent of crystals in the air around him, and he could see them gather on the backs of his hands, like cold fur." - <i>The Giver</i> , Lois Lowry	
Emotion	"I feel like stomping on something. Stomping and stomping and <i>stomping!</i> That makes me even crazier because I can't even do that! I can't even get <i>mad</i> like a normal kid." - <i>Out of My Mind</i> , Sharon Draper	

Writing has voice if:

- it shows the writer's personality
- it sounds different from everyone else's
- it contains feelings and emotions
- the words come to life
- it comes from the heart

Nervous

Happy

Angry

Scared

Sad

Disgusted

Excited

Annoyed