Who's Telling the Story?

Persona

As taught by The Writers Studio (http://www.writerstudio.com), the persona is the identity of the person telling the story – distinct from the person who is writing the story (the author). This is particularly useful when using events from your own life – it helps distance you from those events and look at them more objectively.

Rivet Your Readers with Deep Point of View by Jill Elizabeth Nelson

Narrative Distance

The conscious or unconscious insertion of an invisible narrator between the POVC and the reader.

Characteristics of Deep POV

1. Eliminates narrative distance.
2. Is always immediate.
3. Is not a string of internal monologue
4. Is not italicized.
5. Will eliminate most, if not all, problems with show/don't tell.
6. Will not allow lazy characterization.
7. Polishes the voice of the POV character.
8. Expert user will know there are times to "tell."

Evaluate your work in progress:

1. At any time, do I violate basic POV by inserting comments that the POVC cannot know?
2. What tense — past, present, or future — am I using to tell the story?
3. Why have I selected this tense? Is it best serving my story? Why or why not?
4. Do I ever slip from one tense into another, such as moving from third person into second person by use of the word "you" in my narrative?
5. What person am I using to tell the story?
6. Why did I select this person?
7. If I have chosen more than one person, does the mixture best serve my story? Why or why not?

Narrative Point of View

First Person – story relayed by narrator who is also a character.

Second Person – narrator refers to the reader as "you."

Third Person

> Subjective – narrator is limited to one character's thoughts and feelings
> Objective – narrator does not describe any of the character's thoughts or feelings
> Omniscient – narrator knows what all characters are thinking and feeling

Narrative Voice

Stream-of-Conscious – replicate thought process
Character – directly involved in the plot
Epistolary – series of letters or documents