The background of the slide is a repeating pattern of light purple diamonds on a slightly darker purple background. The text is centered in the middle of the slide.

OUTLINING A DESCRIPTIVE NOVEL!

What's One Way to Keep Your Readers Engaged?

That's easy... you make them feel as if they're a part of the story. For this to happen, each chapter must draw them in, play on their emotions, and allow them to see, feel, hear, and smell right along with the characters. The only way to do that is by being very descriptive and showing instead of telling.

Here's what I mean:

Example #1: The hot pot burned her fingers.

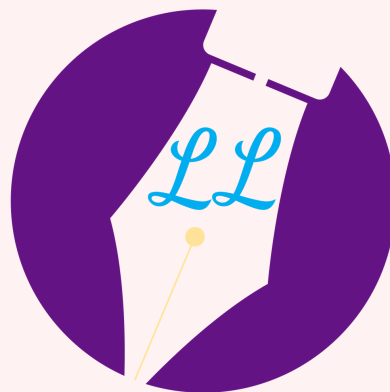
Example #2: As soon as her hand touched the pot she immediately snatched it away. She dashed to the sink, but the cold water was no match for her red blistering fingers.

Do you see the difference? In the first example, you knew the pot was hot because I **told** you. In the second example, you knew the pot was hot because I **showed** you.

Use the outline below to help you to stay on track and create a descriptive novel that will take your readers on an emotionally thrilling journey. Trust me, they'll love you!

Some things to remember:

- You may not use all five senses in every chapter, most likely you'll only use a couple.
- Don't describe something just to be descriptive. Make sure there's a reason you're telling us about this (Ex: You may describe the smell of something, but the smell reminds your character of something. It has to be meaningful, not just fluff.
- Your outline is a guide. You may or may not use everything you planned... It's okay.
- HAVE FUN!



Changing Lives the Write Way!

SAMPLE CHAPTER OUTLINE

From my bestselling novel, "Double Down & Dirty"

CHAPTER 22

POV (Whose eyes am I telling this chapter through)? Sean Wright

Mood: How does my character feel?
Angry

How can I show this mood?

Balled fist
Glaring eyes
Heavy breathing

Why is he/she angry? Meeting with his abusive father.

Where is my character? Metropolitan Club

Describe what he/she sees.

White linen tables
shiny silverware
waitresses dressed in black and white
dimly lit chandelier

What does the character hear?

People talking
silverware clinking against plates
footsteps

What does the character smell?

(I didn't use smell in this chapter, but I could've here are some examples based on the setting)

Grilled meat
Perfume
Cologne

What is he/she able to touch and how does it feel?

linen-rough
silverware- smooth
glass- cold, wet

CHAPTER OUTLINE

CHAPTER 22

What does he/she taste? Describe it.

(My character didn't eat anything, but if he did I'd describe how the food taste.

Ex: sweet, salty, juicy, spicy, etc..

What's the problem(s) in this chapter?

Sean has a meeting with his abusive father who he's avoided for years.

His father taunts him.

Sean struggles to keep his composure.

Is the problem solved in this chapter? If so, how?

Jade spots Sean and sends for him to come outside before the situation gets out of control.

Additional information:

The familiar scent of Jade's vanilla body lotion caused a calmness to wrap around him.

Research websites: Copy and paste or write any website links you'd like to save.

CHAPTER OUTLINE

CHAPTER:

POV (Whose eyes am I telling this chapter through)?

Mood: How does my character feel?

How can I show this mood?

Why is he/she angry?

Where is my character?

Describe what he/she sees.

What does the character hear?

What does the character smell?

What is he/she able to touch and how does it feel?

CHAPTER OUTLINE

What does he/she taste? Describe it.

What's the problem(s) in this chapter?

Is the problem solved in this chapter? If so, how?

Additional information

Website links