1. Use dialogue instead of explanation.

Tell: The cop told me that I needed to slow down.

Show: “Excuse me, ma’am. Do you realize how fast you were going?”

“No sir,” I replied, my voice shaking as I spoke.

“You were going 65 miles per hour. That is ten miles over the speed limit. I won’t issue a citation this time, but you need to slow down.”

1. Use actions instead of simple explanation.

Tell: He brought me flowers.

Show: Tom wiped some dewy sweat off his forehead with his right hand, his left hand tucked securely behind his back. He cleared his throat a few times while he looked down at his feet, which were shifting back and forth on the cement. Without saying a word, he suddenly pulled his left hand around from behind his back and thrust it toward me. Clenched in his fist was a bunch of drooping daisies.

1. Use detailed description instead of summary.

Tell: The hamburger was delicious.

Show: I could feel the steam from the freshly cooked meat as I shoved the hamburger into my mouth. Ketchup and mustard ran over my taste buds as I crunched the pickles, onions and meat patty into a pulp I could swallow. My stomach gurgled happily as the first bite hit. By that time, I was already working on the second bite.