First Person:

I, we, me, us, my, mine, our, ours

Primarily used for autobiographical writing, such as a personal essay or memoir. First person is generally not used in academic writing.

Example:

I (first-person singular) look forward to my monthly book club meeting. We (first-person plural) are currently reading *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel.

Second Person:

you, your, yours

To address or speak directly to the reader. Used in e-mail, presentations, and business and technical writing.

Example:

Tom, when you leave today, don't forget to put the milk in the fridge, I'll be home at 7 P.M. –love Mom

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Third Person:

he, him, his, she, her, hers, it, its, they, them, their, theirs

Third person is the most common point of view used in fiction writing and is the **traditional form for academic writing**.

Example:

Scientists have discovered that when they take plutonium and mix it with Mountain Dew, they create a radioactive beverage that glows in the dark. Their discovery could one day change the night club scene.

Final thoughts:

Don't switch from one point of view to another, it really confuses the reader. Decide what point of view is best for that type of writing and stick with it.

Example (Don't do this): I enrolled in a fiction-writing workshop for the winter quarter, and you have to complete three stories, each from a different point of view.

Example (Do this): I enrolled in a fiction-writing workshop for the winter quarter, and I have to complete three stories, each from a different point of view.