Comparing Personal Narratives and News Articles:

Plot, Theme, and Point of View

What Are Personal Narratives and News Articles?

- Personal Narrative: A story that tells about someone's personal experiences and feelings.
  - Example: "I was so scared when the storm hit, but I knew I had to keep going."
- News Article: A story that gives facts about a real event.
  - Example: "A powerful storm hit the city, causing damage and flooding."
- Key Difference: Both tell stories, but in different ways.

Understanding Plot

Plot = The sequence of events in a story.

Personal Narrative:
- Tells events from the writer's point of view.
- Shows the writer's emotions and thoughts.
- The events may not happen in order.
  - Example: In A Long Walk to Water, Salva talks about his journey and what he was feeling at different points.

News Article:
- Tells events in the order they happened, starting with the most important event.
- Focuses on facts.
  - Example: A news report about a storm might start by saying, "The storm hit the city on Tuesday, causing power outages."

What is a Plot in a Newspaper Article?

A plot is the order of events in a story.
Most newspaper articles give facts, so they don't always have a plot like a story does. However, some **human interest articles <u>do have a plot</u>, such as stories about accidents, crimes, or celebrations**. These stories can also be about current events. They tell what happened first, next, and last. For example, a news article about a fire might explain how the fire started, what the firefighters did, and what ultimately happened.

Exploring Theme

Theme = The main message or lesson of the story.
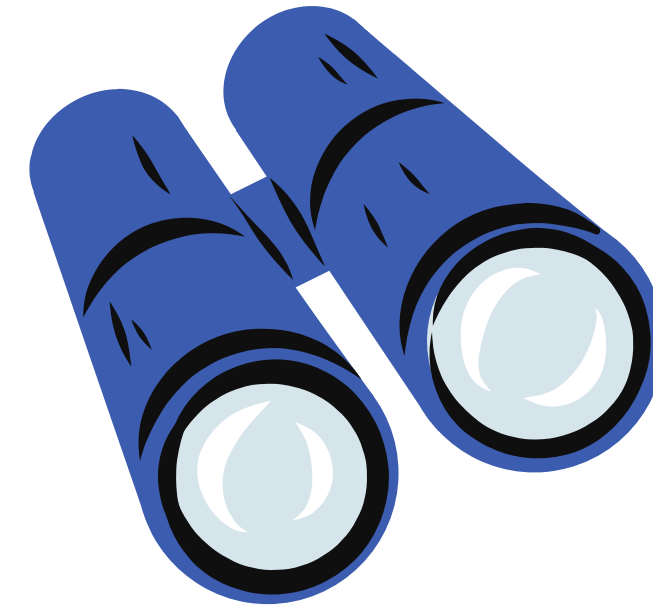
Personal Narrative Themes:
- Often about personal growth or challenges.
  - Example: In A Long Walk to Water, a theme could be about survival and hope.

News Article Themes:
- Focuses on bigger issues, like how the event affects people or society.
  - Example: A news article about a storm might have a theme about how natural disasters impact communities.

Themes

Point of View Differences

Personal Narrative:
- Told from the first-person point of view ("I" or "we").
- Shows the writer's personal feelings and thoughts.
  - Example: "I was scared when the storm started, but I stayed calm and kept moving."

News Article:
- Told from the third-person point of view (someone else is telling the story).
- Focuses on facts, with no personal feelings.
  - Example: "The storm hit the city on Tuesday, causing widespread flooding."

Character Development

Personal Narrative:
- You learn about their thoughts, feelings, and growth.
  - Example: In *A Long Walk to Water*, Salva grows from being a scared boy to a strong survivor.

News Article:
- The article tells you facts about the people involved but not their feelings.
  - Example: A news article might say, "The survivors were found after five days in the desert," but doesn't share what the survivors were thinking.

Comparing Writing Styles

Personal Narrative:
- Uses descriptive language, dialogue, and sensory details (sight, sound, feel).
  - Example: "I could hear the thunder rumbling in the distance, and the air smelled like rain."

News Article:
- Uses clear, direct language with facts and quotes from experts.
  - Example: "The storm caused major flooding. Local officials reported damage to several buildings."
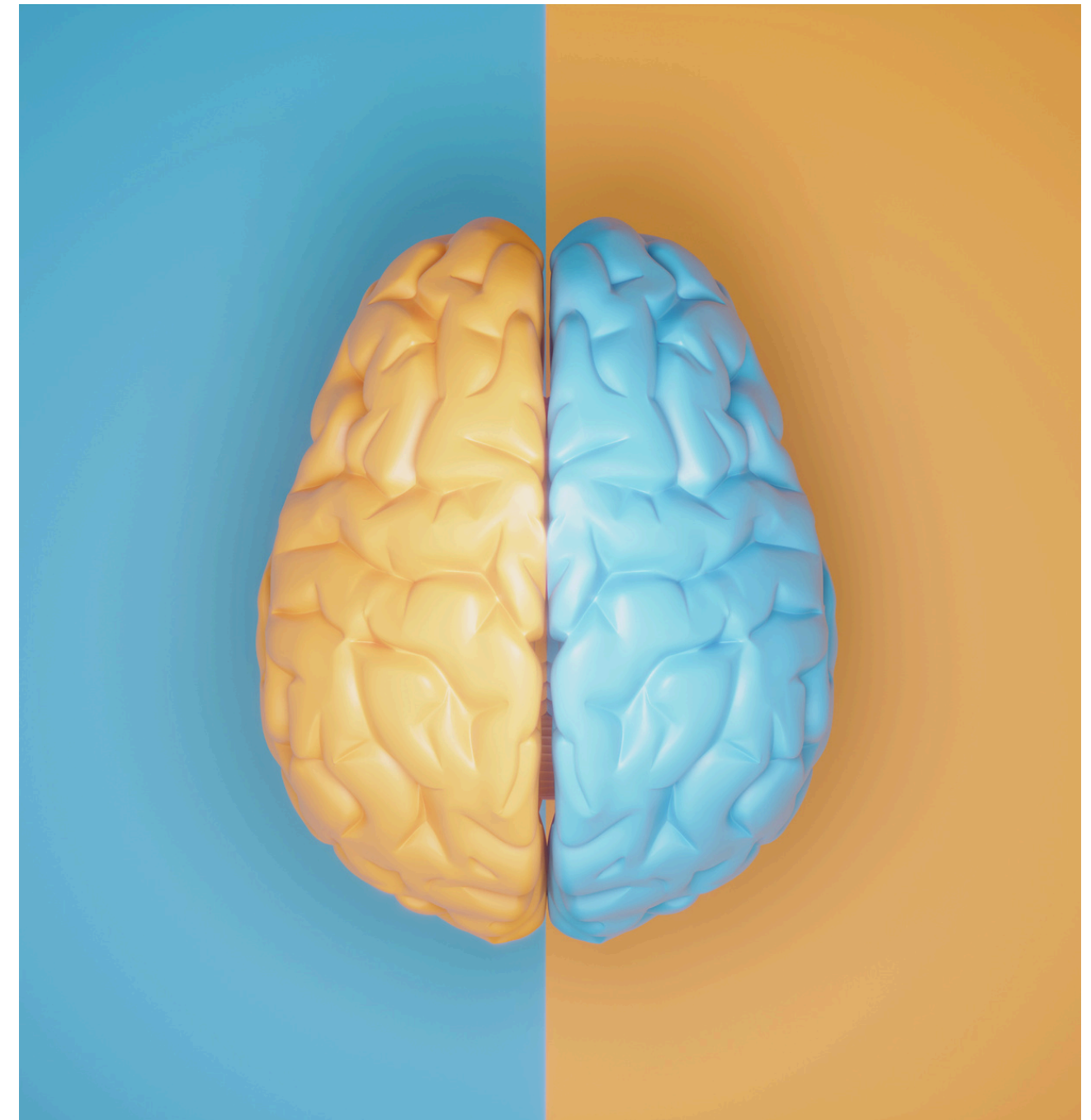
Why These Differences Matter

Different Purposes:

- **Personal Narratives:** Share feelings and experiences.
- **News Articles:** Share information about events.

Different Impacts:

- **Personal Narratives:** Create an emotional connection with the reader.
- **News Articles:** Provide important facts to inform the reader.

Review

- **Personal Narratives:** *First-person, emotional, focus on personal experiences and growth.*
- **News Articles:** *Third-person, factual, report real events in order of importance.*
- **Themes:** *Narratives explore personal challenges; news highlights broader impacts.*
- **Purpose:** *Narratives connect emotionally; news informs with facts.*

Understanding both helps us see how stories can affect readers in different ways.