**Some Basic Aspects of Any Story:**

* You should “show” more than “tell” the reader what is happening. There can, and needs, to be some exposition (telling), but it is more interesting to “see” the information through action and dialoque rather than be told it.

Example: Betty had a temper and if you pointed this fact out to her, it would make matters even worse.

“Listen, I don’t need your help. You can jump in the river for all I care,” Betty said.

“Now calm down. Don’t be so touchie,” George said.

Betty’s face flushed. “I don’t need to take this. I’m leaving!”

* The story has to flow - what is happening has make perfect sense, along with the dialogue.
* Dialogue has to feel real - not like actual dialogue. If you really listen to how people speak, it doesn’t sound good (it doesn’t sound like what we read in books). We repeat, we ramble, we have long, run-on sentences, or incomplete sentences.

Example of off flow and dialogue:

You should have been here day before yesterday.” Misty scolded the young man. “I suppose you were delayed by a lady but will insist it was a debt of honor.” She waved away his attempt to protest. “No matter, you’re here now. In fact, your tardiness was a blessing. If we had left earlier, we would have missed the arrival of Anastacia Newman.” She presented Anastacia to the new comer with a flourish. As the tall man bent to kiss Anastacia’s hand, Misty said, “The daughter of the Esteemed Nicole Newman and Alaric Morrel. Anastacia, this charmer is Kent of the Lake.”

Kent’s gaze shot up in surprise at the mention of Nicole. His large smile spread over white, even teeth, highlighting dimples in a sun-browned complexion. He wore a short, sparse, blond-brown moustache. His blond hair fell in long, soft waves around his jaw line.

* Vary your sentence length and structure, this includes dialogue. Contrary to your high school English class papers, your sentences don’t have to be complete; you can have sentence fragments. It makes for more interesting reading.

Examples:“That’s it,” Mel said stomping his foot so it echoed across the room. “Shit happens. Can’t help it.” Or: The pebble hit the water with a plop. It skipped. It skittered. It sailed across the glass pool until it disappeared under the dark, murky mirror.

* Use your 5 senses when you write. How does a scene smell, look, sound, taste, how does it feel to the touch, how does it feel to your character’s heart (sense number 6, if you like)?