Morse

# Show, Don’t Tell

# First Step: With your group, rewrite the *telling* sentences below so that a reader can *see* exactly what you are writing. Remember, there should be no questions from the reader! (Use a separate sheet of paper.)

**Example:**

*Telling:* The instructor looked tired.

*Showing:* The English 1100 instructor at East Carolina University walked slowly from the classroom, dragging her feet, yawning, placing drops into her bloodshot eyes, and carrying a pile of student essays that needed to be graded.

1. The student looked really busy.

2. He is a good-looking guy.

3. The girl was very cute.

4. The cat is sleeping in the sun.

5. The classroom was small and stuffy, and the teacher gave difficult assignments.

**Second Step:** Choose someone in the group to write the sentences on the board.

**Third Step:** With the instructor read through and explain the good and bad of the other sentences in order to discover which are more effective—which completely explain the writer’s meaning with no further explanation.