

# Chapter 9 – Controlling Narratives

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TMG offers an extensive set of tools for controlling the content and format of narrative reports. Many of them are options selected at the time a report is generated. But others are based on options selected and methods employed when the data is recorded. Since many significant features of report output depend on, or are at least interactive with, the way data is recorded, it is important that you consider the kind of reports you would like to generate when deciding how to record information in TMG.

This chapter covers both the issues you need to consider as you enter data and the options available when narrative reports are generated. In it we will discuss the techniques for producing the narrative reports you have in mind, using the following steps:

**Selecting the Desired Format** – Choosing the report format you want.

1. **Controlling Who is Included** – Defining which individuals to be included.
2. **Selecting Tags** – Managing which information appears about them.
3. **Controlling the Text Layout** – Managing how the text is arranged.

## What Do We Mean by Narrative Reports?

TMG produces a wide variety of Reports and Charts. In this chapter we will discuss only the group of Reports classified as narratives. What they have in common is that they provide the information in full sentences, or narrative style. This is in contrast to Charts, which show brief

<b>Journal</b>	This report, or more properly group of reports, is arranged in the rather formal styles used by the journals of the major US genealogical societies. Reports in these styles are sometimes called Journal Narratives, or not entirely correctly, Register reports. Both descendants and ancestors versions are offered. There is a set of detailed style options to produce reports similar to each of the major societies' publications, or the user can select options individually to produce a custom style. Individuals are arranged by generation. All members of a generation are listed, together with brief listings of children of each, before moving to the next generation.
<b>Individual Narrative</b>	This report describes, in narrative style, a single individual.
<b>Descendant Indented Narrative*</b>	This report includes an individual and his or her descendants. Individual narratives are arranged in outline style, with each generation indented and numbered as in an outline. All descendants of each individual are listed before moving to that individual's siblings.
<b>Ahnentafel*</b>	As its name implies (Ahnentafel means "ancestor table"), this is an ancestor report. It includes an individual and his or her ancestors. The individual narratives are listed in numerical order, using traditional Ahnentafel numbering.
<b>Ahnentafel – Direct Line*</b>	This is a special case of the Ahnentafel Report, in which only those ancestors in the direct line of from one individual to a specified ancestor are included.
*The last three Reports can be thought of as collections of Individual Narratives, arranged and numbered in various ways to depict relationships between the individuals included.	

Table 9-1: Types of Narrative Reports