**Writing Your Own Short Story**

Throughout the unit we have learned about all of the elements that make up a short story and the important role that each individual element plays. You have learned about plot, conflict, characters, setting, point of view, foreshadowing/irony and theme. You will use each of these elements effectively in the story you write.

In order to write your short story, you will go through a series of steps: Prewriting, Drafting and Revision. Each of these steps will build upon each other to lead to your final short story.

**Criteria:**

* Develop strong characters
* Dialogue that will help reveal the characters
* Setting – the time and location of the story
* Story is told from a specific point of view
* Plot, or series of events that leads to the climax
* Theme that is revealed by the story’s end
* Write for a specific audience
* 3 page (minimum)
* Use correct grammar, punctuation, etc. (no more than 10 errors)
* Use appropriate language

# Prewriting

Sometimes topics for short stories come quickly to writers. When that does not happen, writers must use various strategies to find ideas. If you are struggling for an idea, try sketching a character. Use your imagination to create your characters.

Gathering Details about Characters

Characters are the people, animals, alien life-forms, or other creatures that take part in the action of a narrative. Before you begin drafting, get to know the characters you will develop.

Use the chart below to create and examine 2 characters to learn who he, she, or it is. Decide your character’s likes and dislikes, dreams and fears, and what others think of them.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Character  |   |
| Appearance  |   |
| Actions  |   |
| What the Character Says  |   |
| Thoughts  |   |
| Likes  |   |
| Dislikes  |   |
| Dreams  |   |
| Fears  |   |
| What Others Think of the Character  |   |

**Prewriting Rubric**

**Character # 1**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | **3**  | **2**  | **1**  | **0**  |
| **Character** **Development** **(x2)**  | Successfully gave enough details to create a character  | Gave details to create a character  | Barely gave any details to create a character  | Did not give details to create an effective character  |
| **Completeness**  | Filled in all spots on the chart  | Filled in most spots on the chart  | Did not fill in more than half of the spots  | Did not fill in chart  |

**Character # 2**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | **3**  | **2**  | **1**  | **0**  |
| **Character** **Development** **(x2)**  | Successfully gave enough details to create a character  | Gave details to create a character  | Barely gave any details to create a character  | Did not give details to create an effective character  |
| **Completeness**  | Filled in all spots on the chart  | Filled in most spots on the chart  | Did not fill in more than half of the spots  | Did not fill in chart  |

# Drafting

Before you begin drafting your story, keep your central conflict in mind and shape your story around it. An effective plot has the following components:

Climax

Rising Action

Falling Action

Exposition

Resolution

You know what each part of plot is made up of from earlier assignments. You will have an easier time drafting your essay once you have identified each of these parts of plot in your story.

**To get started:**

* Create your own Plot Diagram.
* Fill in the events of your story from beginning to end
* Correctly identify which events are the 5 parts of plot
* Include details from your story

Once you are finished with your plot diagram, you may begin writing your rough draft. Use your plot diagram and character sketches in your writing process.

**Plot Diagram**

**Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | **3**  | **2**  | **1**  | **0**  |
| **Presentation**  | Plot diagram is neat, organized and easy to follow  | Plot diagram is organized, can be followed  | Plot diagram is unorganized, and can be followed with difficulty  | Plot diagram is not legible  |
| **Events**  | Events are displayed in logical order  | One event is not in logical order  | Two or more events are not in logical order  | Events are not given in logical order to the story  |
| **Parts of Plot**  | Successfully labeled and identified all parts of plot  | Labeled and identified parts of plot with one error  | Labeled and identified parts of plot with 2 or more errors  | Did not label parts of plot on timeline  |
| **Details**  | Successfully gave enough details to enhance plot  | Gave details to enhance plot  | Barely gave any details to enhance plot  | Did not give details to enhance plot  |

# Revision

Now that you have written your rough draft, you will participate in a peer editing activity. For this activity you are to:

* Exchange papers with a partner; read through your partner’s essay carefully
* Correct any grammatical errors as you read the essay
* When you are done, fill out the Rubric for

Assessment

* Once the rubric has been completed pass it back to your partner and discuss the ratings you have given
* REMEMBER to provide constructive comments to your partner

# Rubric for Assessment

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Criteria**  |  Not Very Very  |
| **Does the main character undergo a change or learning experience?**  |  **1 2 3 4 5**  |
| **How well is the setting described?**  |  **1 2 3 4 5**  |
| **Are there clear plot events that lead to a climax?**  |  **1 2 3 4 5**  |
| **How clearly is the theme revealed?**  |  **1 2 3 4 5**  |
| **How effective is the descriptive language?**  |  **1 2 3 4 5**  |

**Write your Own Short Story**

# Rubric

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | **4**  | **3**  | **2**  | **1**  |
| **Audience/Purpose**  | Presents details targeted at a unique audience; successfully narrates the events of a story  | Presents details suited to an audience; narrates the events of a story  | Presents few details suited to an audience; some ides conflict with narration of story  | Supports no purpose; is not written for a specific audience  |
| **Plot (x2)**  | Presents events that create a clear narrative  | Presents sequence of events  | Presents a confusing sequence of events  | Presents no logical order  |
| **Characters (x2)**  | Successfully goes indepth with description; clearly covers all aspects of character  | Goes in-depth with description; covers all aspects of character  | Includes some description; covers some aspects of character  | Does not go indepth with description; does not cover all aspects of character  |
| **Point of View (x2)**  | Writes from a consistent point of view  | Told from a specific point of view  | Contains inconsistent points of view  | Uses an inconsistent point of view  |
| **Dialogue &** **Elaboration** **(x2)**  | Contains details that provide insight to character; contains dialogue that reveals characters and furthers the plot  | Contains details and dialogue that develop characters  | Contains characters and setting; contains some dialogue  | Contains few or no details to develop characters or setting; no dialogue provided  |
| **Grammar**  | Contains no errors in grammar, punctuation and spelling  | Contains few errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling  | Contains some errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling  | Contains many errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling  |
| **Use of Language**  | Uses fresh word choice and tone to reveal story’s setting and character  | Uses interesting and fresh word choices  | Uses clichés and unoriginal expressions  | Uses uninspired word choices  |
| **Page Length**  | Meets required page length  | --------------------  | --------------------  | Does not meet required page length  |