

Unsure where to start? Follow these easy steps!



Step 1:

Reading a variety of authors and styles will help you learn how to adopt different "voices" for each story you write, and broaden your creative palette. Pay attention to how the authors **develop** their characters, write dialogue, and structure their plots.

Step 2:

Create a brainstorm or outline to start the flow of ideas. Use a piece of paper so that you can use as much space as you need. Brainstorm ideas about : general conflict, characters, settings, mood, etc.



This will be attached to and handed in with your story. Don't forget the deadline!!!

Step 3:

To make sure your story has all the right elements to be successful, identify the following aspects of your story: (Use point form)

a) **Who is the protagonist of the story (their name):** _____

b) **Who or what is the antagonist:** _____

c) **What is the setting of the story**
 time: _____ place: _____
 year: _____ city/country: _____

d) The conflict (**Internal or External**): **MAN VS** _____

e) **How is the conflict started (beginning/initial incident):**

f) **How is the conflict resolved (end/denouement):**

g) **Briefly describe the climax (highest point):**

Step 4:

Let's make sure that your story will be interesting and creative. Determine the following literary devices.

- a) **Theme:** _____
- b) **Mood:** _____
- c) **What 5 senses (sight, smell, hearing, touching, feeling) will you use for imagery.**
- d) **Will you be using symbolism:** _____
- e) **Will you be using foreshadowing/flashback/irony:**

- f) **Figures of speech (at least 3 different types):**
1- _____
2- _____
3- _____

Step 5:

Characterization!!!! Every story needs an intriguing protagonist! Your protagonist should be a **ROUND** character, meaning well-developed and multi-dimensional. It is up to you whether they are **STATIC** or **DYNAMIC**. Identify the following aspects of your main character.

- a) **Age and Gender:** _____
- b) **Physical Description?** _____
- c) **Character trait (personality)?** _____
- d) **Unique features (tattoos, scars, etc)?** _____
- e) **Talents/hobbies?** _____
- f) **Pet peeves (bitting nails, bad grammar, etc)?** _____

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Writing a short story

h) **Family members (supporting characters)?**



Names	Physical description	Character traits

i) **Friends (supporting characters)?**

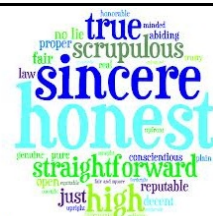
Names	Physical description	Character traits

j) **Antagonist ?** (person or society or object or animal)

Name / Age / Gender	Physical description	Character traits

***Remember to make your character seem real!

No one is perfect, or entirely good or evil.



Step 6:

Let's look a little more specifically at your protagonist. Choose **3 character traits** from the list (see handout). Describe **how** you're going to demonstrate this by what the character says, does and thinks.

Trait 1: _____

How I'm going to show this.

Trait 2: _____

How I'm going to show this.

Trait 3: _____

How I'm going to show this.

Step 7:

Organization! Use the **plot graph** (in this document) to **outline** the elements of plot in your story.



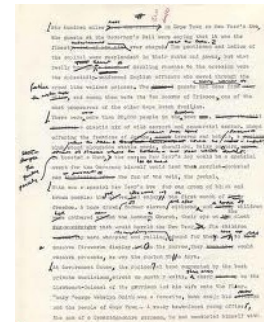
AFTER STEP 7, YOU ARE NOW READY TO HAND IT IN. RESPECT THE DEADLINE!!!

Step 8:

You're now ready to write your **rough draft!** (2 to 3 pages)

Don't forget!!!!

- dialogue and narration must be present
- vocabulary
- transitions / linking words (see handout)
- **review** verb tenses
- **avoid** repetition of nouns and pronouns
- revise **punctuation**
- have **several people review** your work (they must initial)
- make changes to your work in a **different** colour pen
- think of an **appropriate title**
- will the **end** be a cliffhanger?
- the deadline for the rough draft



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Step 9:

THE FINAL COPY !!!!!

Don't forget!!!!

- typed, 12 point font, double spaced (2 to 3 pages)
- numbered pages
- title page / image
- follow the dialogue format (review short stories read in class)

Respect the due date: _____

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