Writing Your Own Short Story

Name: ________________________________________

Brainstorming due date: ________________ (hand in a page like this one)

Outline due date: ________________________ (hand in this worksheet)

Rough Draft due date: ________________________ (don’t forget to revise/correct/check vocabulary and verb tense)

Final Copy due date: ________________________ (typed, pages numbered, title page, 2 to 3 pages)
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- _________________________________________________________________

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)? ___________________________
EAE2P  Writing a short story

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names</th>
<th>Physical description</th>
<th>Character traits</th>
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i) **Friends (supporting characters)?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names</th>
<th>Physical description</th>
<th>Character traits</th>
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j) **Antagonist**? (person or society or object or animal)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name / Age / Gender</th>
<th>Physical description</th>
<th>Character traits</th>
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***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!!!
Writing a short story

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: __________________