

PROJECT OVERVIEW: FICTION ESSAY

- Goals: The goal of this assignment is to create a work of fiction/short story about anything you want. For example, you may write a story about love and romance; action and adventure, mystery and suspense; horror or fantasy; or any other topic of your choosing. In the end, you will present your work to the rest of class.
- Requirements: Your final submission should be 3-5 pages in length, and should meet all MLA formatting guidelines. Your work of fiction should include dialogue between characters, and clearly align with the elements of fiction detailed in the website presentation. In addition, your final packet of work must evidence your involvement in the five stages of the writing process (see below).
- Assessment: This is a 40 point assignment. In addition to your daily participation in activities related to this assignment, the quality of your work will be assessed against the school-wide rubrics related to various elements of this project (i.e. writing, oral communication, collaboration, etc.).

The Writing Process

1. Pre-Writing: 15pts

- Elements of Fiction: Before you begin this assignment, please visit the course website, and review the Elements of Fiction presentation. Be sure to add a comment to the course page indicating one thing you learned from the presentation. Be sure to review the comments from other students to ensure that your comments are unique, and add to the ongoing tally of feedback. In other words, don't simply repeat something that another student has written.
- Start from the Finish: Your first task is to consider how your story will end. In order to incorporate all elements of your plot sequence seamlessly, try writing your conclusion (or final scene), then work backwards to fill in (outline) your plot sequence to create a streamlined plot line that you can work from.
- Mood and Tone: Be certain to review the *Mood and Tone Packet* provided in class (or downloaded from the course website) to ensure that your writing reflects your intended tone throughout the essay.

2. Drafting/Writing: 10pts

- Show Me; Don't Tell Me: Using the outline you created in the previous section, create an initial/rough draft that does more than merely "tell" a story". Consider the quote from the website when writing, and be sure to "show" the reader, rather than just "tell" them what you want them to know. Check out your descriptive words packet for inspiration. All drafts should be saved as separate files to ensure evidence of ongoing effort to progress your writing through various stages of creation.

3. Conferencing/Review: 5pts

- Peer Editing: You must take part in a guided peer editing process with at least two other people in order to receive full credit for this assignment. While we will spend time doing this in class, you will have the option to perform such tasks outside of class using the peer edit sheet or checklist I provide you with.

4. Revising/Editing: 10pts

- Second Draft: You must provide at least one revised draft that demonstrates your ability to consider and incorporate suggestions from the peer editing conference activities. Be sure to save your updated draft as a separate file to ensure that you evidence any revisions as needed for the final submission of your work. This revised draft will be submitted for a grade, but will progress through at least one additional revision to be submitted as part of your final creative writing portfolio. At this point you will share your work with the class [more details about the presentations will be provided at a later date].

5. Polishing/Publishing: TBA *[part of final portfolio]*

- Final Written Draft: Your final revised draft will be submitted along with all evidence of your involvement the writing process as part of your final portfolio. This draft should incorporate any additional edits or suggestions I have provided on your earlier work.
- Alternate Final Drafts: In certain cases, and only after direct discussion with me has occurred, permission may be granted to students to submit alternate forms of final drafts that incorporate artistic renditions of your earlier work, or other creative mediums that are proposed. Students wishing to pursue such activities should speak with me only after you have submitted your second draft.

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