

E-Mag Short Story Assignment

You are about to begin working on a fictional (made-up) short story of the year. I'd like most of your idea-work to come during school time.

Keep these things in mind as you work ...

- **Story Map:** You need to complete the story map **before** you start your draft, and I expect you to turn it in via Google Classroom! Also, remember to use your story map when you start to write your story!
- **Paragraph structure:** Knowing when to start new paragraphs can be tough! Remember our acronym, TIPS. Change (and indent) paragraphs when there is a change in TIME, IDEA, PLACE, or SPEAKER. "Idea" is the most difficult to work with.
- Be detailed and thorough
- Take your time so that your story makes sense, follows a storyline, and is full of interesting detail. Work on making your sentences "flow."
- **Dialogue rules:** You have been given a sheet on the rules for writing dialogue—stick close to this sheet. Writing dialogue can be tough, but you can do it!
- Follow the writing process:
 - Prewriting, rough draft, revising, and editing. Prewriting will be crucial for this assignment; webs are wonderful ways to organize your ideas before starting your actual draft. Once you have your writing idea, begin by getting your thoughts down in a manner that makes sense.

Assignment Deadlines

- **Story Map:** This is due on: **Thursday, 5/23**
- **Rough Draft:** This is due on: **Friday, 5/31**
- **Second Draft:** This is due on: **Thursday, 6/6**
- **Final Draft:** This is due on: **Monday, 6/10**

Short Story Grading Rubric

CATEGORY	Exceptional	Good	Fair	Poor
Setting	Many vivid, descriptive words are used to tell when and where the story took place.	Some vivid, descriptive words are used to tell the audience when and where the story took place.	The reader can figure out when and where the story took place, but the author didn't supply much detail.	The reader has trouble figuring out when and where the story took place.
Characters	The main characters are named and clearly described. Most readers could describe the characters accurately.	The main characters are named and described. Most readers would have some idea of what the characters looked like.	The main characters are named. The reader knows very little about the characters.	It is hard to tell who the main characters are.
Problem/Conflict	It is very easy for the reader to understand the problem the main characters face and why it is a problem.	It is fairly easy for the reader to understand the problem the main characters face and why it is a problem.	It is fairly easy for the reader to understand the problem the main characters face, but it is not clear why it is a problem.	It is not clear what problem the main characters face.
Solution/Resolution	The solution to the characters' problem is easy to understand and is logical. There are no loose ends.	The solution to the characters problem is easy to understand and is somewhat logical.	The solution to the characters' problem is a little hard to understand.	No solution is attempted or it is impossible to understand.
Dialogue	There is an appropriate amount of dialogue to bring the characters to life, and it is always clear who is speaking.	There is too much or not enough dialogue in this story, but it is always clear which character is speaking.	There is not quite enough dialogue in this story, but it is always clear which character is speaking.	It is not clear which character is speaking, or there is virtually no dialogue.
Organization	The story is very well organized. One idea or scene follows another in a logical sequence with clear transitions.	The story is pretty well organized. One idea or scene may seem out of place. Clear transitions are used.	The story is a little hard to follow. The transitions are sometimes not clear.	Ideas and scenes seem to be randomly arranged.
Creativity	The story contains many creative details and/or descriptions that contribute to the reader's enjoyment. The author has really used his/her imagination.	The story contains a few creative details and/or descriptions that contribute to the reader's enjoyment. The author has used his/her imagination.	The story contains a few creative details and/or descriptions, but they distract from the story. The author has tried to use his/her imagination.	There is little evidence of creativity in the story. The author does not seem to have used much imagination.
Mechanics	The story contains no errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics.	The story contains few minor errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics.	The story contains many and/or serious errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics; may interfere with reading.	The story contains so many errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics that errors block reading.