

Section 1.1.15 – Composing the Short Story

Final Draft

Section Objective:

- Develop a character analysis graphic organizer
- Write an expository essay about a character



As you revise your short story, you may have to rewrite just part of the story of certain sections, but you may also have to write the whole story again if you have not planned well. All these revisions are normal. Any good piece of writing usually has been revised a number of times. Do not be discouraged if you feel you need to revise quite a bit. That is normal and is a sign of the beginning of a good writer.

Some writers have two and three drafts, if not more. Do not feel you have to confine yourself to one revision. With a computer, revising is such an easy process.

Be sure to check all elements against the plan you created for your story. Although this plan can change, just be sure that you have included everything that you think makes this a good story.

Can a reader really picture your characters? Are the plot and theme being developed in your story? Have you added enough inferences and clues so that the reader can understand the motivation of the characters and can predict what logically should be known for the story to make sense?

Final Draft

Writing Process: Final Checklist for Short Story

Below is a checklist that you should refer to when writing your last revision before you write the final draft:

Check the following: Writing Process Steps

- Focus: Is the **theme** of your story strong enough?
- Does the story hold the readers' interest and attention?
- Content: Should you include more details for your **plot**, **characters**, **setting** and **time**?
- Organization: Does the sequence of events for the plot follow your plan? Do the details make sense? Should you have more depth? Is there coherence in the flow of sequence?
- Is your beginning and ending effective for your theme?
- Style: Are you consistent in your **point of view** (1st/3rd)?
- Is there force in the story created by **voice**, **tone**, and **mood**?
- Conventions: Check spelling, grammar, punctuation, usage, and Manuscript Form.
- Remember you can use the computer, a dictionary, a thesaurus, a grammar and usage book, etc. to help you check some of these conventions.
- Evaluation: Have a friend read your story and give you input.
- Use the sample rubric for a short story to evaluate how well you have written your short story.

Sample Short Story Rubric

1. **Focus:**

5 Points	Excellent direction (Thesis)
4 Points	Good direction / Weak in a few minor places
3 Points	Some direction / Weak in some places
2 Points	No real direction / Some attempt
1 Point	No real effort

2. **Content**

5 Points	Excellent depth (details) and perceptions
4 Points	Good depth (details) and perceptions
3 Points	Needs more depth and details
2 Points	No real depth / A few details
1 Point	No real depth at any level

3. **Organization**

5 Points	Excellent plan that can be seen / Great coherence
4 Points	Good plan / Coherence a little weak
3 Points	Evidence of a plan, but weak
2 Points	Very weak plan
1 Point	No real plan

4. **Style**

5 Points	Strong Individual Voice / Fluent Sentence Structure / Appropriate Vocabulary
4 Points	Good Individual Voice / Decent Sentence Structure / Appropriate Vocabulary Most of the Time
3 Points	Weak Individual Voice / Sentence Structure Problems / Weak Vocabulary
2 Points	No Real Voice / Awkward Sentence Structure / Weak Vocabulary
1 Point	No Real Voice / Poor Sentence Structure / Weak Vocabulary

5. Conventions

5 Points	Excellent grammar, usage, punctuation, capitalization, spelling, manuscript form, etc.
4 Points	Good grammar, usage, punctuation, capitalization, spelling, manuscript form, etc.
3 Points	Weak grammar, usage, punctuation, capitalization, spelling, manuscript form, etc.
2 Points	Poor grammar, usage, punctuation, capitalization, spelling, manuscript form, etc.
1 Point	Extremely poor grammar, usage, punctuation, capitalization, spelling, manuscript form, etc.

Growth Activities



To become a good writer, you need to read often. Many good writers read voraciously, reading everything they can – different styles, subjects, authors, etc. Many compare their own writings to other pieces of writing, especially those done by the classical and popular writers. If you want to improve your writing, think about comparing your short story to another short story you have read. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of both. In what ways were they similar? Different?