

Lesson Name : 40

Lesson Title : Short Story First Draft

Course Name : English 2 Part 3 [Honors]

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It is a good idea to use your digital notebook to keep your outline and notes that you may need to reference later.



In today's lesson, we will begin writing the rough draft for a short story. A rough draft is the initial composing stage of writing. Published authors create multiple drafts of their work before anyone actually reads the finished version. Drafting allows you to put your thoughts on paper in a logical sequence so that you can begin to improve your word choice and sentence structure to make the best story possible. Approach each section of a story separately. You can go back later and improve the flow of your writing.

You have created a character based on a hero that embarks on a journey. Using your outline, you will begin writing about the journey your hero must take in order to fulfill his role as a hero. What traits will you show the reader first? How will you introduce your character?

In a new window, view a template to [create your character](#).

The setting and plot brainstorming will be incorporated next into your rough draft. Make sure you use descriptive and specific words to describe your setting. The reader needs to be able to visualize the time and place that you create.

Listed below are some examples of settings in short stories:



The castle was like a beacon of light and hope to all of the people.



Few dared to enter that dreaded place that had been abandoned for years.



Proving their valor and swordsmanship, the knights fought to the bitter end.



The fire-breathing dragon tormented the townspeople for years from the tall cliff of the mountain.

The plot is the sequence of events you established for your story. Remember, your plot must contain an attention grabbing statement that draws the reader into the story. What will the conflict be for your hero? Will it be an internal or external conflict? How will the conflict be resolved? Also, you must commit to a narration, or point of view. Be careful not to begin

writing in first person, using the pronoun 'I', and switch to third person. Use this as a guide in the writing process. Remember this is a rough draft that can and will be changed. At this stage in the writing, you need to work on getting your ideas on paper.

Now that you understand character, plot, and setting it is time to begin to write your short story. Follow these six steps when writing the rough draft of your short story. When you get to step six, feel free to use the outline you created to organize your story.

To help organize your story, view the [outline template](#) in a new window.

The writing steps to developing your short story are as follows:

- Use the Character template to create your characters. Limit the number of characters to a few so you can focus on their development.
- Identify the setting of the short story. Where and when will the story take place?
- Identify the conflict that the story will have. How does the conflict begin, how does the conflict unfold, and how does the conflict get resolved.
- What is the narration point of view? (First person, second person, third person omniscient, third person limited, etc.)
- Write a powerful opening sentence that will grab the reader's attention.
- Develop an outline for the short story that lays out the plot and characters' relationships to one another.



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