

Short Story Creative Writing Assignment

For this assignment, you will be composing a short story. The plot, characters, setting, themes, etc. will all be up to you to create. Your story may be written in whatever genre you prefer (science fiction, fantasy, romance, thriller, mystery, literary fiction, etc.). No matter what you make your story about, it needs to contain the following elements:

Setting: Where and when is your story taking place?

Characters: Who is the main character? Who are the supporting characters? What relation do they have to each other?

Plot & Conflict: What is going to happen in your story? Why is it going to happen? What is the outcome going to be?

Character Change: Your characters should experience something that changes them (internally or externally) by the end of the story. How will they change?

Showing vs. Telling: Bring your story to life! Involve the five senses and avoid unnecessary, lengthy descriptions.

Here are the steps to this assignment:

1. Come up with an idea for a story. Your idea can be drawn from the activities we did last class, or you can develop an idea on your own.
2. Complete the prewriting form that is on the back of this page. This will help ensure that you have all of the important elements (listed above) included in your story.
3. Write a rough draft of your story. Your story should be at least 750 words in length.
4. Have your story read and reviewed by other students in an in-class peer-critique session.
5. Revise, edit, and proofread your story.
6. Turn in your final draft.
7. Sell your story for millions of dollars to a multinational publishing firm. Then, make a movie deal with a big-time producer. With the film earnings, buy an island in the South Pacific. Sip lemonade and watch the sunset from the western shore of your private island.