

Final Assessment: Short Story Literature Unit

Now that you have been developing a character, setting, and conflict, it is time to write your short story. Choose a conflict that you can write about for 2-5 pages (Times New Roman, 12 point font, double spaced, 1 inch margins). Remember that you are not writing a novel, so your conflict should be minor enough to fit the 2-5 page limit.

Include an evaluation of your short story that explains what elements your story contains and why it fits into the short story genre. Use the list below and the rubric to guide your evaluation.

Short Story Elements

Character—protagonist & antagonist, round & flat

Theme—What is the message of the story?

Conflict—the problem that the character(s) face(s)

Setting—place, time, weather conditions, mood (feeling of story)

Plot—Beginning (introduction), Suspense (rising action), climax, falling action, resolution

Point-of-View OR Voice—Who is telling the story?

Descriptive language—writers use descriptive language to SHOW the reader what is happening in the story. The actions of the characters bring them to life.

Dialogue—brings characters to life. Use realistic dialogue.

Suspense—an anticipation of what is to come, the driving force of the story. It makes you want to read on to find out what happens to the characters.

	4 Exceptional	3 Acceptable	2 Needs Improvement	1 Not present
Organization x3	The story has a clear beginning , middle and end . Follows a logical sequence.	The story has a beginning, middle and end. Events are in logical order.	The story does not have a clear beginning, middle and end. The sequence of events is confusing.	The story is missing either a beginning or ending. The relationship between events is often confusing.
Plot x4	Plot is interesting and has conflict which is established, developed and resolved after a gripping climax. You don't try to do too much in your story (it's not a novel).	The plot makes sense and the conflict is established, developed and resolved after a climax.	The plot may be hard to follow. The conflict is established and resolved, but lacks proper development.	The plot is hard to follow. The conflict is not developed and it may not be resolved in a logical way.
Characters x5	Characters are well-developed through dialogue, action or thoughts.	Some characters are well-developed through dialogue, actions and thoughts.	The characters are described rather than established through dialogue, action or thought.	The characters may not be fully described, even through description. Some characters are revealed through dialogue, action or thought.
Setting x3	The setting is described through vivid sensory language.	The setting is clear and some sensory language is used to describe it.	The setting is identified but not clearly described.	The setting may be vague.
Dialogue X3	Dialogue is punctuated and formatted correctly.	Dialogue may have minor errors in punctuation or format.	Dialogue is punctuated and formatted inconsistently.	Dialogue may be hard to tell from narrative, or it may lack essential elements, such as quotation marks or end punctuation.
Point of View	One point of view was used consistently throughout the story.	Point of view is fairly consistent.	Point of view changes several times throughout the story.	What is the point of view? I can't tell.
Grammar and Mechanics	There are few or no errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling.	There are some errors in mechanics, usage, grammar or spelling.	There are many errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling. These sometimes make the story hard to understand.	Numerous errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, and spelling which interfere with meaning.
Action Verbs X3	You include rich action verbs that show the reader what is going on and enables him/her to visualize your story. (you have many more than 10 action verbs)	You do use some strong action verbs, but you could use more. (you should have at least 10 from the pink action verb worksheet that you put into your story)	You have some action verbs, but fewer than the 10 from the pink action verb worksheet.	No action verbs at all.
Evaluation X2	Your evaluation clearly explains how your short story fits into the genre. Include a sentence or two that explains how you use the points above.	Your evaluation could be more detailed.	Your evaluation is brief and/or leaves out some important points.	Your evaluation is absent, irrelevant, or not supported by evidence.
TOTALS 100 points				

******Your peer edited draft needs to be turned in with your final story!!***