

English 10 Short Story Outline and Rubric

Remember, your short story should include the elements of, CHARACTERIZATION, PLOT, SETTING, and THEME.

This story should not exceed four double-spaced pages.

Take note of the rubric below; it indicates the expectations for this project.

Here are a few questions about each element that will help get you started:

Plot:

- What kind of conflict does your story have? – (Character vs. Character, character vs. self, character vs. Nature, character vs. Society, etc).
- What complications does your story have to contribute to the rising action? (minimum of two)
- What is the climax of your story?
- What falling action takes place to allow the story to reach its final outcome?
- What is the resolution of your story?

Theme/Analyzing Characters:

- What is the motivation of your character?
- What behaviour does your character exhibit?
- What are the consequences of your character's actions?
- What responsibility does your character have?
- What expectations are placed upon your character by himself or others?

Setting/Description:

- Is your setting well developed and suited to your story?
- What description do you provide within your story to make it interesting to the reader?
- What variety of literary devices do you use?

Characterization:

- What physical description do you give to your characters?
- What type of language do your characters use?
- What comments are made by the narrator?

Outline questions that must be answered and handed in with first draft:

1. What will your story be called? Why is this an effective title?
2. Where does your story take place? How will this setting be important to the plot?
3. How would the reader be able to identify with your character? What makes him likeable to the audience?
4. What is the theme of your story? What message are you trying to get across to the reader?
5. What is the type of conflict within your story and how is it introduced?
6. What is the first example of rising action?
7. What is the second example of rising action?
8. What is the climax of your story?
9. What is the resolution? Why is it an effective and appropriate ending?

RUBRIC FOR THE SHORT STORY:

Characterization:

_____ **Advanced:** Characters are strongly drawn, clearly separate and appropriately developed. The main character(s) are presented in multiple ways (appearance, action, thoughts, speech, etc.). They behave "within" their character. They have a past and a future.

_____ **Proficient:** Characters are clear and reasonably developed. The main character(s) have identifiable characteristics. They may seem to lack a past or future.

_____ **In-Progress:** Characters are unclear. They may be little more than a name and a description or do not rise beyond stereotype. They may be unbelievably inconsistent, or there may not be enough information to form a judgement about them.

Plot:

_____ **Advanced:** What the conflict is in the story is clear and the importance of it to the characters is convincing. Actions will produce new situations which will produce new actions. The characters will struggle with their problems in interesting and meaningful ways. The story will have a satisfying and logical climax that is the culmination of the proceeding events.

_____ **Proficient:** What the conflict is in the story is clear. The importance of the conflict to the characters may be fuzzy, although it will clearly be important. Actions will produce new situations which will produce new actions. The characters will struggle with their problems. The story will have a climax that is the culmination of the proceeding events. The story explores its super hero element.

_____ **In-Progress:** The conflict may be unclear or absent. The conflict may be clear, but the importance of it to the characters is not fully communicated. There may be no actions (the story is static), or the actions do not seem related to an identifiable conflict. The characters may be passive and not struggle. The story may lack a climax that is the culmination of the proceeding events.

Setting, Narration, and Appeal to the Senses:

_____ **Advanced:** Where the story takes place is clearly drawn and has an impact on the story. The reader will experience the story through multiple appeals to several senses. An appropriate amount of the story is experienced rather than told.

_____ **Proficient:** Where the story takes place is clear. The story makes appeals to the senses. Some of the story is shown rather than told.

_____ **In Progress:** Where the story takes place may be unclear or setting may be absent altogether. The story may make very limited or no appeals to the senses. Most of the story is told rather than shown.

Style (use of language):

_____ **Advanced:** The style is appropriate to the story and heightens its effectiveness. This may include interesting and appropriate figurative language, diction and syntax. Sentences will be varied in length and type. The relationships between the parts of the story will be smoothly handled and clear. Many literary devices are utilized within the story.

_____ **Proficient:** The style will not interfere with the understanding of the story. Writing will be workmanlike and clear. The relationships between the parts of the story will be clear.

_____ **In-Progress:** The style will interfere with the understanding of the story. Sentences may need to be reread for meaning. Transitions may be absent. The relationships between the parts of the story may be unclear.

Mechanics:

_____ **Advanced:** The story will be closely proof-read and will contain **few or no** errors in punctuation, sentence structure, grammar, spelling, capitalization, etc. The manuscript is "clean" and in proper format.

_____ **Proficient:** The story will be reasonably well proof-read. There may be some errors, but they do not interfere with the understanding of the story. The manuscript is "clean" and in proper format.

_____ **In-Progress:** The story will show little evidence of proof-reading. Proof-reading errors will be pervasive and interfere with the understanding of the story. The manuscript may be sloppy or not in proper format.