

CREATIVE WRITING ASSIGNMENTS



MEMOIRS...

Guidelines:

- Your memoir must be non-fiction. What you choose to write about needs to have actually happened and not be made up.
- Your memoir needs to have a deeper meaning! This deeper meaning should be an 'ah-ha' moment for the reader and answer the question "So what?" at the end of your story.

MEMOIRS CONTINUED...

-Your memoir should be written in first person point-of-view. (Using 'I' instead of 'you' or 'he/she.') You are the main character in your own memoir!

-Your memoir should be told like a story and not told like a list of related events.

-Your memoir should include meaningful dialogue. Your dialogue should have a point, and add to the story, not just be used as words to help fill the page.

-Your memoir should include details that allow the reader to picture the story as they read. (Show not Tell)

FLASH FICTION...

- Also known as:
 - Sudden Fiction
 - Short Short Story
 - Micro Fiction
- Flash fiction is a complete short story typically told in less than 2,000 words (sometimes even less with only 1,000, 750, or even just 500 words!)
- This type of writing allows a writer to really think about what is REALLY important for a story.

THE DO'S OF FLASH FICTION...

“DO surprise the reader.

Flash-fiction is like writing a joke: start with a set-up, then overturn the reader’s expectations with the punch line.”

“DO leave yourself room to finish the story you start.

Writers sometimes get carried away setting up their stories, and then have to cut the end short. Map out your story: allot space for set-up, body, and a satisfying resolution. Maintaining a consistent level of detail throughout can help prevent the sense that the ending is rushed.”

“DO

1. Be concise without strangling your plot and characters.
2. Remember to deliver your message. No one likes empty envelopes.
3. Make your prose intense.”

THE DON'TS OF FLASH FICTION...

“Don’t:

1. Go in circles. You don’t have room for that.
2. Try to wear many hats. Flash has space only for one or two.
3. Mince words. You are writing a flash and not making hamburger patties.
4. Be afraid to experiment. You don’t want to repeat what others have written.
5. Forget that flash is a story and not a poem or essay.”

“DON’T give up on context.

A lot of FF writers go straight for the plot in an effort to pack in maximum action. This can be awesome, but it’s not the only way! One of the most impressive things about Hemingway’s famous six-word story (“For sale: baby shoes, never worn.”) is that in just two words, he tells us this is a classified ad in a newspaper AND evokes the image of a grieving parent sitting down at a worn kitchen table to write that ad.”

FRACTURED FAIRY TALES

You will be taking a well known fairy tale and putting your own spin on it. Add new characters, change the plot, change existing characters names, etc.

Google a list of well known fairy tales or take one of the fairy tales on the front table.

Minimum of 4 pages double spaced.

NANOWRIMO NOVEL...

NaNoWriMo is a world-wide writing competition that takes place during the month of November. The goal is to write 50,000 words or more. For this project, you will be choosing a topic that you would enjoy writing a novel about. Don't let the word count of 50,000 words or the word "novel" stress you out. This is a project where you will write as much as you can each day. If you don't reach 50,000 words, that is ok. Just strive to make progress each day you work on your novel. Make sure your topic is school appropriate.

www.nanowrimo.org