

The Short Story

This will count as your semester exam. It is due as a final draft, saved to your Creative Writing folder in Word format, **saved as Final**, by 3:30 p.m., Friday, December 17. This will be graded by Mr. Janes as your final exam but written-workshopped by your fellow writers over Christmas break to be discussed upon return.

This short piece of fiction will demonstrate all the skills learned in the previous assignments. In the past you've been given direction and structure for each assignment. Now it's your turn to be a true author in every sense of the word (no pun intended). Here are the expectations:

- 1500 words minimum (use Word count - look in lower left-hand corner of MS Word window for the running tally).
 - This will undoubtedly be better written if you outline it first in some manner (up to you - I don't need to see this work - just the final draft) and then begin plugging in and developing the components. Some of you might be able to start with a blank page, but I advise that you do NOT attempt to write from the beginning, cold, lest you immediately run into a writer's block, one from which you might have great difficulty escaping.
- We've spent one semester building creative writing from the ground up. Now is your turn to show evidence of your skills.
 - Show development of the following ([click here to review the Elements document](#)):
 - Structure
 - exposition
 - rising action
 - climax
 - falling action
 - conclusion
 - Major elements
 - setting
 - characterization
 - major characters need to be round, multi-faceted, changing over time
 - minor characters can be flat
 - protagonist (you do not need one for the assignment, but a foil would work well here)
 - antagonist (what or whom, depending on conflicts)
 - conflicts
 - develop your protagonist so there are two types of conflict
 - using *Cast Away* as an example, he at first seemed to be trapped in a conflict of man vs. nature but as time passed, it was clear his conflict was truly inner, man vs. self
 - theme (you must speak to your reader *between your words* - it can be a moral or something else, but it must be evident)
 - Minor elements
 - foreshadowing
 - irony
 - symbolism (even an *allusion*, or referencing something indirectly, is as effective as metaphor)
 - POV (use 1st, 3rd, or WOW me by using 2nd)
 - The preceding is your rubric. If you do not incorporate *all* elements and make them blend well, resulting in an interesting story that FLOWS to the reader, your grade will reflect that.
- This work is to be *completely* fictional and the genre as well as subject will be of your choosing.

My final advice is to develop before writing. As we've done previously, begin with an idea for a character's conflict and build the story around that. I look forward to your work.