

Scholastic Writing Contest - Flash Fiction

Week 1: Introductions, Scholastic Guidelines, Expectations

1. Scholastic Guidelines and Criteria
 - a. Slideshow/ video tutorial to Set Up Teen Account for Scholastic Flash Fiction entry
 - b. Review CRITERIA for contestants
2. Introductions
 - a. Share: Students state name, age, experience level, favorite author/book, genre, and top two most memorable/best ideas for fictional writing.
3. Expectations
 - a. You are the writers, conceptors
 - b. The most I can ethically do is advise and help edit, especially since many of you will be competing against each other.
 - c. If you submit drafts late, I cannot guarantee that I will offer feedback because of workload demands.

Homework: Brainstorm ten memorable/best ideas suitable for writing Flash Fiction. Freewrite 500 words on two of these story ideas. Freewriting means writing as fast as you can without worry about spelling, punctuation, or grammar. However, apply the below creative writing guidelines:

1. Appeal to senses (sight, sound, touch, taste, feel, smell)
2. Include thoughts and feelings
3. Get specific (details/examples)

Note: Consider any prior short story drafts that fulfill the Scholastic Flash Fiction criteria and attach them to the homework field. I will BRIEFLY screen them and respond if and only if they might work.

Week 2: Story Structure/Outline

1. Story Structure Introduction
 - a. Show Hero's Journey Story graphic
 - b. Discuss each stage
2. Discuss Story Outline

HW: Complete Story Outline for 2 of your story ideas. I will use your outline as a blueprint/map to guide you towards your complete story. If you do not complete and keep updated your story Outline, I cannot responsibly advise, nor will I give any feedback. You are the parent of an infant—I am the midwife. I am not the co-parent.

Week 3: Mood Paragraph and Conflict Integration

1. Intro paragraph importance
2. Present Mood Paragraph Game—use your Story outline to generate a rough draft intro
3. Play Game

4. Present Example Conflict Introduction and Pacing guidelines

HW: Revise/update your Outlines as needed

Select one of your story ideas and complete the first half of one story, according to your outline, ensuring your inciting event is integrated within the first quarter.

Week 4: Description

1. Image is Everything, Obey the Thirst: imagery is your pathway to the judges' eyes, ears, emotions, etc.
2. Show vs. Tell.
3. Activate verbs, less adverbs
4. Precise nouns, less adjectives.

HW: Revise/update your Outlines as needed

Complete the rest of one story, according to your outline, ensuring your climax, falling action, and resolution are integrated.

Week 5: Dialogue

1. Dialogue Examples
2. Dialogue Rules
3. Dialogue Exercise/Demo

HW: Update your Outlines

Put the first half with the 2nd half for workshop and integrate feedback as needed.

Week 6: Workshop

1. Workshop Guidelines
2. Each participant reads aloud and screen shares either their full flash fiction draft or a 750-word trouble spot in their draft for class feedback
3. Every participant is responsible for taking feedback notes on their own draft feedback.

HW: Revise your Outline and Draft accordingly.

Begin your 2nd story half draft, integrating a Mood Paragraph and Inciting Event.

Week 7: Revising Guidelines

1. Present Revision Importance and Strategies
2. In class, begin revising a trouble spot
3. 2 students share

HW: Revise your first draft for Workshop

Complete your 2nd story last half, integrating Climax, Falling Action, and Resolution.

Week 8: Workshop and Editing

5. Present Editing Guidelines: continuity and consistency
6. Workshop your revised 1st story
7. Every participant is responsible for taking workshop feedback notes on their own draft.

Mrs. Morrison's Writing class

HW: Edit your 1st story
Consolidate your 2nd story draft for first draft workshop.

Week 9: Second Story Workshop

5. Workshop Guidelines
6. Each participant reads aloud and screen shares either their full flash fiction draft or a 750-word trouble spot in their draft for class feedback
7. While class members critique your draft, have your draft opened and stencil in their comments or make immediate changes.

HW: Complete story revisions for my final review—if you don't make this deadline, I will not be able to give further feedback.

Week 10: Writer Showcase and Scholastic Submission

1. Each person shares 5 minutes of their best draft
2. Scholastic Submission Guidelines.

HW: Course Evaluation.