English 112

Mr. Ross

October 2019

*Tall* Ideas and *Short* Stories

# Short Story

You will craft a minimum six-page short story with a minimum of four scenes that tackles a philosophical question from the “Indestructible Question” reading or an aspect from one of the critical theories. Your idea should resemble a thesis statement, and this idea will drive your plot.

# Expectation

You will use the following criteria to craft a short story with two submissions. The first submission will be October 13th and will be passed back with feedback. The final submission, incorporating my feedback, is due on October 18th. Students will have drafting time and further lessons about crafting short stories leading to the due date.

# Evaluation

Above and Beyond (90-100)

* **Scene Development** Each scene is crafted with purpose and interweaves through flashback and flashforward to tell an overall story.
* **Showing vs. Telling** Sensory description, dialogue, inner monologue, and figurative language are creatively employed to skillfully reveal the theme and create atmosphere.
* **Sentence Craft** Sentences are crafted to give characters a unique voice and to reveal their traits.
* **Conventions** Punctuation, grammar, and usage is polished, and the story uses MLA conventions (margins, font, spacing, and line numbers).
* **Overall Publishable Quality** The piece has undergone multiple drafts to reach a quality that warrants itself to distribution to an audience.

Basically Fine (75-89)

* **Scene Development** Each scene is crafted with purpose to tell an overall story.
* **Showing vs. Telling** Sensory description, dialogue, inner monologue, and figurative language are employed to skillfully reveal the theme and create atmosphere.
* **Sentence Craft** Sentences are crafted to give characters a unique voice.
* **Conventions** Few punctuation, grammar, and usage errors exist, and the story uses MLA conventions (margins, font, spacing, and line numbers).
* **Overall Publishable Quality** The piece has undergone drafts to reach a quality that nearly warrants itself to distribution to an audience.

Could Have Done Better (60-74)

* **Scene Development** Five scenes exist in the story.
* **Showing vs. Telling** Many instances exist where the author tells rather than reveals.
* **Sentence Craft** Similarities in sentences make little difference between characters.
* **Conventions** Punctuation, grammar, and/or usage errors sometimes take away from the readability of the story.
* **Overall Publishable Quality** Little evidence of revision exists.