##### Short Story Grading Rubric

As part of our short story unit, you will be writing your own short story. We are also working on the **writing process**, so you will also need to turn in your brainstorming worksheets.

**\*First draft due: Thursday, Sept. 12**

**\*Final draft due: Monday, Sept. 16**

**With your final draft, you must also turn in the following (in the following order):**

1. **Your paper, typed with proper MLA formatting (minimum of 2 full pages)**
2. **Worksheet on character/setting**
3. **Worksheet on plot/theme**
4. **Peer editing worksheet**
5. **This Rubric (stapled BEHIND your story)**

**Content**

\_\_\_\_ / 5 Character descriptions

\_\_\_\_ / 5 Defined setting

\_\_\_\_ / 25 Clearly established plot (with exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution)

\_\_\_\_/ 5 Ending with clear resolution of conflict

\_\_\_\_/ 10 Reveals theme (not directly stated)

**\_\_\_\_/ 50 Content**

**Mechanics**

\_\_\_\_ / 5 Proper MLA format, heading, title placement, page numbering, 1” margins (see example on class wiki)

\_\_\_\_ / 10 Spelling/Punctuation/Grammar

\_\_\_\_/ 5 Length- 2 full pages (maximum of 5 pages)

\_\_\_\_/ 5 Stay in 3rd person point of view the whole story (no “you” or “I”)

**\_\_\_\_ / 25 Mechanics**

**Writing Process**

\_\_\_\_/ 5 Completed character/setting worksheet

\_\_\_\_/ 5 Completed plot/theme worksheet

\_\_\_\_/ 10 Completed peer editing worksheet (edited by two others)

**\_\_\_\_/ 20 Writing Process**

**\_\_\_\_\_/ 95 Total Paper**

**Comments:**

**The Writing Process:**

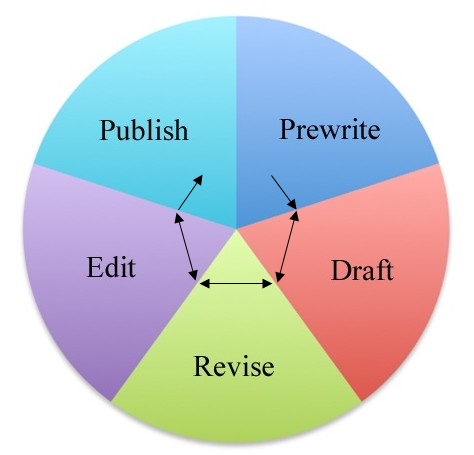
**1. Pre-write: worksheets on character, setting, plot, and theme**

**2. Draft: your first draft**

**3. Revise: peer editing**

**4. Edit: read through again and make necessary changes**

**5. Publish: turn in your paper**



**Writing dialogue for your short story (optional)**

-**Do’s and Don’ts of writing dialogue:**

-**Do keep dialogue brief**

-**Do use dialogue tags to show who is speaking (Fred said, Sara yelled, Grandpa muttered)**

-**Do put exact words in quotation marks**

-**Do use dialogue to move the plot forward**

**-Do begin a new paragraph each time the speaker changes (make sure to indent each paragraph!).**

**-Do punctuate dialogue like the examples below. Notice that you need a comma separating the dialogue from the dialogue tag, except for when it is a full sentence or thought.**

**“Nice to meet you,” Bob said with a smile.**

**Johnny muttered, “Nice to meet you.”**

**“Ouch!” Sam yelled.**

-**Don’t use stiff or unnatural dialogue**

-**Don’t use small talk unless it’s important to the plot**