

Grade 7 Literacy  
Week of October 19 – October 22

**Lessons 2-4: Writing Your Story**

You will spend the remaining three days this week going through the processes of pre-writing, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing.

A graphic for the 'Prewriting' section. It features a large, light blue circle containing a white letter 'P'. To the right of the circle, the word 'Prewriting' is written in a dark blue, sans-serif font.

You have already started planning and brainstorming your short story on bravery in your writer's notebook. It is now time to start writing! Remember it doesn't have to be a long story just a well-written one including all the necessary elements of a story that have been discussed.

Use the template attached to complete your writing.

A graphic for the 'Drafting' section. It features a large, light blue circle containing a white letter 'D'. To the right of the circle, the word 'Drafting' is written in a dark blue, sans-serif font.

Now it's time to write a first draft. A first draft is where you put your ideas into sentences and paragraphs.

Here are some tips that will help you write a first draft of your story.

- Work in a place where you can concentrate without distractions.
- Read your prewriting ideas carefully then begin your draft while the ideas are clear in your mind.
- Think carefully about your opening. This is where you introduce the characters, describe the setting and mood, and indicate what the problem or conflict in the story will be.
- Introduce your main characters as soon as possible. Make sure their actions, dialogue, and appearance are appropriate for your chosen story type. For example, characters in a historical fiction story need to be act, talk, and dress accurately for the time and place of the story.
- If the setting is important, add more details about it as your story progresses.
- Make sure the setting is appropriate for your chosen story type. For example, an adventure story about lost hikers is better set in the mountains than in a city.
- Everything in your story must lead up to the turning point or climax. If you keep this in mind while you develop your characters, setting, and plot, then your dialogue and narration will build towards the climax.

- Your story can have a happy ending, or a not-so-happy ending. Either way, it should end when the conflict or problem has been resolved. Don't drag it out!
- Let your ideas flow naturally and keep writing. Don't stop to evaluate your work.
- Don't worry about order. You can move words, sentences, and even paragraphs later.
- After you've finished writing the first draft, set it aside for a few days.

If possible, check with your home facilitator for suggestions for revisions in your template and then you can continue on the writing process.

Remember your writing targets:

**Writing Targets:**

- By the end of this workshop you will have incorporated the following into your piece:
  - A clear setting
  - Well-developed characters
  - Focus/Development of ideas
  - A strong plot with a beginning, rising action, climax, falling action and conclusion.
  - A short story with a clear theme focused on bravery
  - Use of figurative language devices



It's now time to work on the parts of your story that need improvement. This is called revising. To make your story clear and complete, you might need to revise it several times. Remember, no one ever writes a perfect draft!

Revising is your chance to improve your first draft by adding, substituting, deleting, and moving ideas and words around. Once you begin revising, you may need to revise the story two or three times before your ideas completely take shape. Don't worry about "small stuff" like spelling and punctuation though. Those things will be checked and corrected later in the editing stage.

Wait a few days before revising your draft. You will look at it with a fresh eye and new ideas if you do.

**Check that you have done each of these things:**

- your setting gives the reader a sense of the time, place, and mood of your story
- your characters are well described, interesting, and believable
- your story is told from a consistent point of view
- your plot develops logically from beginning to end
- your story has a deeper meaning (theme) that is obvious to the reader
- your writing includes a strong opening, interesting topic sentences, and a strong conclusion
- you have provided enough details to make your writing effective, but not so many that the reader gets bogged down and forgets your main idea
- you tighten your sentences by removing unnecessary or repetitive words and information
- you replace unclear or overused words with more specific and appropriate words
- you have added a title to your story

When you have received feedback, return to the draft of your story to revise based on those comments and any other revisions you might want to make. This is an important part of the writing process and you will be marked on whether or not you were able to make the necessary revisions.

**Show Your Growth!**

**Part A: Provide 3 examples of where you have revised your story.** Include both the original and revised sections.

Example:

Original: As he approached the door he got more and more frightened.

Revised: As he approached the door his hands started to shake and his mouth went dry. (*show don't tell*)

Some things to keep in mind when revising:

strong opening show don't tell good title adding details removing unnecessary or repetitive words strong, specific words similes and metaphors word pictures believable dialogue

## Part B: Incorporating Figurative Language

Earlier in this unit we discussed the literary element figurative language. It is time to incorporate the tool into your writing. Find places within your story where you can incorporate an example of each of the 5 types of figurative language.

# E<sub>di</sub>ting

Now that you have revised your story, it's time to edit and proofread it in preparation for the final draft. Editing involves a last look at things like parts of speech and sentence and paragraph structure.

Proofreading is where you focus on things like grammar, punctuation, and spelling—and on getting your story ready for the world to see.

Before you submit a final draft you need to edit and proofread your draft. You might get a parent or friend to proofread your paper, also.

Editing is where you make sure everything reads smoothly.



Check that you have done each of these things:

### Parts of Speech:

- Did I use a consistent verb tense (e.g. past or present) throughout my writing?
- Do my singular subjects have singular verbs and my plural subjects have plural verbs?
- Did I use the best words in my writing?

### Sentences

- Do all my sentences express complete thought?
- Have I eliminated run-on sentences from my writing?
- Have I eliminated short, choppy sentences from my writing?
- Have I eliminated long, rambling sentences from my writing?

- Did I use a variety of words and phrases to start my sentences?
- Have I eliminated words that don't add meaning to my sentences?

**After you have edited your story, read it aloud at least once. Let your ear tell you what sounds awkward or ungrammatical.**

- I have read my story aloud at least once.

Once you are satisfied with your editing, it's time to proofread your writing. Proofreading deals with the more mechanical aspects of your writing. Check your writing for these points.

### **Title**

- Have I included a title?

### **Punctuation**

- Did I include a punctuation mark at the end of each sentence?
- Did I use commas to separate items in a series?
- Did I use commas before conjunctions (e.g., and, or, but) in compound sentences?
- Did I correctly punctuate the dialogue in my writing?
- Did I use apostrophes to show possession or missing letters (not plural)?

### **Capitalization**

- Did I begin each sentence and direct quotation with a capital letter?
- Did I capitalize nouns that name specific people, places, and things?

### **Spelling**

- Have I double-checked the spelling of the names of people and places?
- Did I use the correct word form for words that sound alike but have different spellings and meanings (e.g., their, they're, there; too, to, two)?
- Did I use the spell-check function on my computer?

## Paragraphing

- Have I indented each new paragraph or double-spaced it from the previous paragraph?
- If there is dialogue, have I started a new paragraph each time the speaker changes?

**Sometimes it can be difficult to spot mistakes in your own work, so you could ask a friend or family member to proofread it as well.**



Once you have:

- completed the personal revision task
- revised your first draft based on feedback from your teacher
- edited your work for COPS
- checked the rubric to make sure you have included all necessary elements
- you are ready to submit your final draft!

# Writer's Workshop-Tell a Story

Title of Piece:	<a href="#">Purpose:</a>	Author:
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## Step One: Prewriting: Planning/Outline/Brainstorming:

### A. Gather the basic parts.

Fill in a 5 W's memory chart to gather all of the basic details about the experience. Remember to include sensory details.

#### 5 W's Memory Chart

Who?	
What?	
Where?	
When?	
Why?	

### B. Place actions in time order.

Now list the things that happened in your experience, from start to finish. Use a time line to organize them in time order.

Time Line

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	