

Creative Writing 101



"Creativity is a magic wand that works two ways. When you set it in action and seek to create something, it does not just bring into existence that object or work, it also raises in your heart a dream, a hope, and a will to achieve that creation." -Jyoti Arora

Ideas to Keep in Mind:

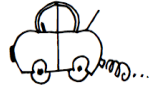
Show, Don't Tell

Create vivid imagery through using...

- » Strong Verbs
- » Details
- » Letting the readers feel for themselves
- » Expressive Dialogue

Tips for Teachers:

- Allow the students to use their imaginations!
- Help students brainstorm. You can use pictures, mentor texts, movies, television shows, songs, and more.
- Don't grade spelling and grammar when you first teach creative writing
- You may want to add a creative project to help
- Allow students to present their writings



The Process:

Begin to write a draft!

Don't worry about an opening line yet; just write and keep writing.

Let the ideas flow. Remember: *show, don't tell*.

Writer's Block? Try these suggestions:

- Find a picture, postcard or painting and use it to begin a story
- Find an object that interests you and use it to begin a story
- Pick a book, open to a random page, and write your own story beginning with a sentence on the page
- Eavesdrop and write a story based on what you heard



Editing and Revising

We recommend having others read your work to help with these stages.

Ask yourself:

- What should be taken out?: long dialogue, unnecessary information, and too many details.
- What should be added?: a better opening and closing line, suspense, more creativity, detail and descriptions, and clarification.
- What should be moved?: words or sentences to create a better rhythm, descriptions to add suspense or clarification, and dramatic sections to draw the reader in more



Final Edit

Grammar, punctuation, spelling, and any wording that is confusing.

More Tips

(These are tips and suggestions that we deemed to be most important for each)

Modern Fiction

Have a reason to modernize a classic text. Use these questions to propel your writing: Is the dialect confusing? Is the plot difficult to follow? Do you want it to reflect current cultural beliefs?

Before writing, utilize the power of discussion. Initiate conversations with your peers to determine the main area of confusion or concern for the text. For example, does everyone think the characters are boring and irrelevant? Brainstorm possibilities for addressing this concern in your modern adaptation.

Fan-Fiction

Using this genre in the classroom can lose its fun appeal if teachers do not remember to make it student-centered and use fun activities. Online forums, like Fanfiction.net, give students relatively risk-free environments in which to practice their writing. Students have the opportunities to use computers, exercise their digital literacies, and get exposure to an audience with a range of ages, locations, socio-economic groups, education levels, and linguistic backgrounds

Script Writing

There are several forms of scripts including scripts for comics, screenplays for movies, plays for the theatre, and reader's theatre scripts. Scripts are used to present a story through narration, dialogue, and acting. They can be adapted from many different things including books and themes. Script writing can be a fun way to get students thinking about text and author's purpose in a different analytical light.

When adapting from a text, choose a scene with a lot of dialogue and action. Include detailed stage and acting directions, and determine if props would enhance the final performance.

Puppetry

ABC's Of Puppet Performance

- a. Keep your eyes on your puppet
- b. Use your normal voice (for now) and speak loudly and clearly
- c. Move your puppet deliberately, pausing in between movements
- d. You don't have to hide to be invisible; you just have to really FOCUS on your puppet. If you believe you can bring it to life, your audience will too!

Decide on a type of puppet and ask students to create their puppet with the materials available. Ask students to create a character with their puppet and think about their character's qualities. Students can then join a partner and write about how their puppets would interact.

Students can write a narrative about their own puppets or puppets you have in the classroom.

If they are in need of a more kinesthetic experience, they can act out the narrative as they write.