

Writing your Short Story:

Know the main components of the story.

1. Protagonist (the main character or the hero/heroine) Make your protagonist believable, the story will revolve around them.
2. Setting: Where and when it happens. The events in this story will need to happen over a short period of time, the setting will reflect this. This is the time period, place, elements of the story and location.
3. Conflict/Antagonist: This represents the main obstacle for the protagonist. The antagonist = people, events, or anything that brings conflict.
4. Climax: This has your rising and falling action in it. Follow the story chart for the action sequence. The climax is the breaking point where you can see the end. It sets the stage for the denouement or the falling action of the story.
5. Resolution: Conclusion or ending of the story. This is where the conflict is resolved.

☞ There are 3 parts to the story.

- ▶ The Introduction, Body and Conclusion/Resolution.
 1. In the Introduction: Make this the most interesting. It has to catch your reader and make them WANT to continue reading. Make it catchy and start your action right away.
 2. The Body contains the Plot, conflicts, dialogue and interaction through to the climax.
 3. Your Conclusion/Resolution shows the resolved conflict. End your story and reveal the hidden things from your story or about your character(s). Use dialog to parallel the beginning events in your story.

Tips:

- Be eloquent but use simplicity.
- Limit yourself on the amount of characters. 3 is good. The more characters the easier it is to get confused and lose track, remember it is a short story.
- Use meaningful dialogue and active verbs. USE a thesaurus to make your writing pop.
- Keep the action steady and write in 1 tense and point of view.
- Ie: 1st, 2nd or 3rd person... and know time frame—past, present or future or today, tomorrow or yesterday. ☺
- 1st person refers to main character as I or me, it is limited to 1 perspective... the person talking
- 2nd person tells the story from your point of view... it is the person you are talking to.
- 3rd person tells from other people's perspective, person or people you are talking about .
- Note about dialogue: This established identity. It shows what is going on rather than telling the reader. Give your dialogue a purpose.
- Remember each new speaker start a new paragraph.

Some helpful sites that discuss how to write a short story are:

www.mahalo.com/how-to-write-a-short-story

www.jerz.setonhill.edu/writing/creative/shortstory