

Unit One Final Assessment Dystopian Short Story Assignment

For this assignment, you are being asked to think about your version of a dystopian world and present it in the form of a short story. As you create your story world, use deliberate language choices (diction, figurative language, imagery) to convey meaning and tone.

In order to do well on this assignment, you should have a solid grasp on the following skills and concepts:

- Effective story structure (see below of this sheet for a refresher on the main elements of a story).
- Characteristics of a dystopian society
- Effective use of diction, figurative language, and imagery

Assignment Requirements:

You may approach this narrative by writing a full story or an extended vignette in which you thoroughly develop the dystopian world, central characters, and their conflict in their world.

The focus here is on making use of figurative language to develop a clear tone.

Your narrative should be at least 1,000 words in length, though you may find yourself going much further beyond that in developing your characters, setting, and plot.

Your narrative should be accompanied by an author's statement in which you identify the intended tone(s) in this piece and specific uses of figurative language to develop those tones.

Your story and author's statement will be assessed using the following rubric:

Standard	4	3	2	1
Using Figurative Techniques	I can use techniques effectively in my writing to convey a deeper and more nuanced meaning.	I can use techniques adequately in my writing to convey a clear meaning.	I can use techniques in my writing but my meaning is not always clear.	I cannot yet use techniques in my writing.
Topic Development and Organization	I can write narrative texts that develop complex topics and organize content in a way that carefully considers the purpose, audience, and task of writing.	I can write narrative texts that develop a topic and organize content in a way that fits the purpose, audience, and task of writing.	I can write narrative texts that develop a topic, but content may not always be organized in a way that fits the purpose, audience and task of writing.	I can not yet write narrative texts that develop a topic.
Attention to the Writing Process (planning, revising, and editing)	I can produce narrative writing that shows significant, meaningful evidence of planning, revising, and editing based on feedback from peers and/or teachers.	I can produce narrative writing that shows evidence of planning, revising, and editing based on feedback from peers and/or teachers.	I can produce narrative writing that shows some evidence of planning, revising, and editing based on feedback from peers and/or teachers.	I can not yet produce narrative writing that shows some evidence of planning, revising, and editing based on feedback from peers and/or teachers.

Complete narratives contain the following elements:

Term	Definition	Example (from Snow White)
Exposition	Background information on important characters, places, and events	Information about Snow White (SW), the queen, how the mirror works, the queen's jealousy
Inciting Incident	An event that introduces the main conflict of the story into the narrative.	The hunter fakes SW's death.
Conflict	The main problem or tension that must be resolved in the narrative.	Only one person can be the fairest of them all (SW or the queen)
Rising Action	Various events that lead up to the resolution of the narrative's conflict.	SW living with the dwarves, the queen's discovery that SW is alive, the ultimate poisoning of SW.
Climax	The moment when the conflict is resolved (usually the emotional peak of the narrative).	The prince comes along and smooches SW dislodging the apple (what a smoocher!).
Resolution	How the narrative concludes after the conflict is resolved.	SW and the Prince are married and live happily ever after.

An extended vignette would establish a lot of exposition, a central conflict, and perhaps set up an inciting incident.

Planning your own narrative:

Story Element	What it looks like in your story:
Exposition	
Inciting Incident	
Conflict	
Rising Action	
Climax	
Resolution	

Dystopian Narrative Planning

What significant social problem will you choose to develop for the focus of your dystopia? What do you believe is the worst problem facing our society today?

Now start imagining the possibilities. What if this aspect of society were left unchecked and allowed to reach extreme proportions? What would our lives be like? How would we be worse off than we are now?

What might be the setting of your story? Where does it take place and in what time period? How will you describe the physical setting of your story? How will it help accentuate the negative aspects of this dystopia?

What about the characters in your story? Are they seemingly happy? Brainwashed? How do they go about their lives? What do they look like? How do they behave? Does your story include a protagonist who is different from the rest? What is he/she like? What marks him/her out as special?