

Grades: 6th-12th

Creating an Inciting Incident

Common Core Standard: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3A

Materials Needed: Paper and Pencil or a Chromebook/Laptop

Objective: Students will be able to create a story conflict with an inciting incident.

Lesson Plan

1. Watch Tricia Levenseller's class on Inciting Incidents. You could pause the class at 23:30, because this is when the question and answer portion of the class begins.
2. Remind students that before they can create a story conflict or an inciting incident, they must know the answer to these questions:
 - What does your main character want?
 - What is the main conflict of your story?
 - How will you involve your main character in the main conflict?
 - At what point will your character choose involvement in the conflict?
3. Tell students that they are going to get a chance to craft some inciting incidents today. First have them get out a sheet of paper or their laptop. Have them write the answers to the questions you just went over. Then go back to minute 9:15 of the video and project the equation on the sheet below on the board. Do the activity Tricia had the teens in the class do giving more time if needed.
4. Have students share some of the inciting incidents they wrote.
5. Summarize by reminding students that all good stories include a conflict and an inciting incident. Have them go into stories they've already written and see if they can find the inciting incidents in those stories.

Writing Incentive Opportunity:

Start the road to publishing by having students submit their first chapter in the TEEN AUTHOR BOOT CAMP First Chapter Contest. Winners announced in March at TABC. <https://www.teenauthorbootcamp.com/contests>



Character + Conflict

Inciting Incident

