

IB English 1

Formal Composition IV Supervised Writing Prompts – Literary-Quality Short Story Writing: A Character-Driven Story.

FULLY DEVELOPED Working Draft Due – Bring 4 copies of a FULLY DEVELOPED working draft on _____ to exchange for Small Group Literary Review; you will turn one copy in to me that day. A fully developed working draft is defined as a completed short story, but one that is still in a rough-draft stage. A draft that is obviously not complete will not be counted as meeting this deadline.

Final Draft Due –

Page Length – *MINIMUM* 3 Pages; *MAXIMUM* 4 pages.

My Challenges to You –

- 1. AVOID PLOT-DRIVEN STORIES.** By extension, **AVOID GENRE-DRIVEN STORIES** such as mystery, horror, romance, fantasy, etc.
 2. This is not to say your work cannot incorporate elements of genre fiction. It certainly can! However, your focus is developing a character-driven literary work instead of a basic genre-fiction piece.
 3. As such, your short story should be primarily character-driven, meaning that the full development of (a) dynamic character(s) and his/her/their conflict(s) will drive the story to its climax and resolution rather than a plot-driven story that employs mostly static or “stock” characters to reach a pre-determined resolution.
 4. Before you begin conceiving this story, first read the attachment below to gain a general tutorial on the difference between plot-driven and character-driven stories, and how actually utilizing a good mixture of the two could be ideal as long as character development primarily drives the story.
 5. **WRITE ABOUT WHAT YOU KNOW!** If you don’t, upholding challenge #5 below will be difficult to do. For example, you have not been on the frontlines as a soldier. Can you really pull off a convincing story from that point-of-view?
 6. Writing fiction *is* a craft, so logical considerations of how you employ literary techniques, rhetorical/literary devices, syntax, diction, development of tone, consideration of audience and purpose is needed in order for the short story to work. Yes, this is a highly creative endeavor, but that doesn’t mean anything goes. You are creating fictional paradigms, no matter how realistic or fantastical the piece, so you are constructing logical systems of thought unique to your piece.
-