

# Writing/Storytelling 101

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## Course Description

Welcome to Writing and Storytelling 101! During this course, you will grow as a creative and expressive storyteller. You will explore a variety of storytelling elements, including character development, plot structure, world-building, and narrative techniques. You will deepen your ability to craft engaging stories and make connections to diverse perspectives and ideas. Through writing, analysis, and feedback, you will enhance your storytelling, language, and writing skills. You will collaborate with peers, participate in constructive discussions, and share your work in a variety of formats. You will set goals, refine your craft, and reflect on your growth as a writer.

## Supplies

Chromebook	Laptop	Tablet	Note-taking tools	Internet
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## Course Grading



**Grading Scale**  
This is voluntary.



Be confident!



Be curious!



Be persistent!



Be engaged!

## Types of Assignments

### • Character Profiles

Create detailed backstories and personalities for original characters, exploring their motivations, conflicts, and arcs.

### • World-Building Exercises

Design immersive settings by crafting maps, describing cultures, or developing rules for a fictional world.

### • Plot Outlines

Structure a story using classic narrative frameworks like the three-act structure or hero's journey.

### • Flash Fiction

Write short stories under 1,000 words, focusing on concise and impactful storytelling.

### • Dialogue Practice

Craft scenes using dialogue to reveal character dynamics and advance the plot.

### • Scene Descriptions

Create vivid, sensory-rich descriptions to bring a setting or moment to life.

### • Genre Explorations

Experiment with different genres such as fantasy, mystery, or contemporary fiction to understand their unique conventions.

### • Story Drafts

Write complete drafts of short stories or novel excerpts, integrating the techniques learned in class.

### • Peer Reviews

Provide constructive feedback on classmates' work and receive insights to improve your own writing.

### • Revisions and Edits

Revise drafts based on feedback, focusing on refining tone, structure, and pacing.

# SYLLABUS

## **Week 1: The Foundations of Storytelling**

- Understanding the purpose and power of stories
- Identifying key elements: character, plot, setting, conflict, and theme
- Exploring different storytelling mediums and styles
- Assignment: Analyze a favorite story, identifying its core elements

## **Week 2: Crafting Dynamic Characters**

- Creating believable, multidimensional characters
- Developing character arcs and motivations
- Exploring relationships between characters
- Assignment: Write a detailed character profile for an original character

## **Week 3: Building Engaging Plots**

- Structuring a story: beginnings, middles, and ends
- Exploring narrative structures (three-act structure, hero's journey, etc.)
- Balancing main plots and subplots
- Assignment: Create a plot outline for an original story

## **Week 4: World-Building and Setting**

- Designing immersive and believable settings
- Understanding the relationship between setting and mood
- Exploring cultural, historical, or fantastical elements in world-building
- Assignment: Write a descriptive piece that showcases a unique setting

## **Week 5: Writing Dialogue and Voice**

- Crafting authentic dialogue
- Using dialogue to reveal character and advance the plot
- Developing narrative voice and tone
- Assignment: Write a dialogue-driven scene between two characters

## **Week 6: Pacing, Tension, and Conflict**

- Controlling the rhythm of a story
- Building suspense and emotional engagement
- Exploring internal and external conflicts
- Assignment: Write a short scene that highlights tension and conflict

## **Week 7: Revising and Refining**

- Revisiting drafts with a critical eye
- Polishing tone, clarity, and style
- Giving and receiving constructive peer feedback
- Assignment: Revise a previous piece, incorporating feedback

## **Week 8: Final Story Showcase**

- Preparing a polished short story or excerpt
- Sharing stories with the class through readings or presentations
- Reflecting on personal growth and lessons learned
- Assignment: Submit the final project and participate in peer review

## **Attendance Terms for Writing and Storytelling 101 (TikTok Platform)**

### **Flexible Participation**

- Engage with lessons and activities at your own pace. Attendance is encouraged but not mandatory, allowing you to join when it fits your schedule.

### **Weekly Content Access**

- New lessons and challenges will be posted weekly. Stay up-to-date by viewing content in order, but feel free to revisit past posts anytime.

### **Live Sessions and Q&A**

- Attend live streams for interactive discussions, tips, and real-time feedback. Live participation is optional, with recordings available for later viewing.

### **Engagement Encouraged**

- Participate in discussions, respond to prompts, and share your work using designated hashtags. Active engagement enriches your learning experience.

### **Creative Freedom**

- Complete assignments and exercises as suggested, but feel free to adapt them to your interests and storytelling goals.

### **Community Accountability**

- Support and encourage peers by commenting, liking, or sharing their contributions. Building a positive, collaborative community is key to the experience.

### **Consistent Commitment**

- Aim to engage with at least one assignment or discussion per week to make steady progress. Missing a week? Catch up anytime—it's all about growth at your pace.

### **Personal Milestones**

- Set your own goals for learning and writing. Use class materials as a guide, and share your progress if comfortable.

## **Inclusion Terms for Writing and Storytelling 101 (TikTok Platform)**

### **Respect for All Voices**

- Celebrate diversity and ensure all participants feel heard and valued. Engage with others' ideas constructively and without judgment.

### **Encouragement Over Criticism**

- Provide feedback that uplifts and inspires growth. Avoid dismissive or negative comments about others' work or ideas.

### **Positive Community Environment**

- Foster a welcoming and supportive space by engaging with empathy, curiosity, and kindness in all interactions.

### **Cultural Awareness**

- Represent diverse perspectives thoughtfully and authentically in your stories. Approach cultural elements with respect and care.

### **Accessibility and Flexibility**

- Encourage everyone to participate at their own pace and comfort level. Acknowledge that each person's journey is unique.

### **Inclusive Language**

- Use language that respects identities, cultures, and backgrounds. Avoid assumptions about gender, ethnicity, or beliefs.

### **Open-Minded Creativity**

- Embrace varied storytelling styles, genres, and techniques. Value originality and encourage creative risks without judgment.

### **Zero Tolerance for Harassment**

- Maintain a safe space by refraining from discriminatory, offensive, or harmful behavior. Report any violations immediately to preserve the community's integrity.

### **Collaboration and Connection**

- Build meaningful interactions by supporting peers through comments, duets, and hashtag challenges. Promote growth by sharing ideas and encouragement.

### **Commitment to Growth**

- Approach the class with a willingness to learn, adapt, and evolve as a storyteller. Honor the community's shared goal of fostering creativity.



**Every day is a new adventure. Be curious, be brave, and never stop learning!**

