

Toolbox: Short Story

The Three-Minute Story (30 points)

For this assignment you get to write a short story. You have free reign to write what you like and how you like (in other words, you select the topic, you design the characters and you put incorrect English in their mouths).

Here are the parameters:

- Three pages (12 point, Times, double-spaced).
- Sharing: yes, you will be sharing at least the idea of the story
- Draft: a typed rough draft of at least two pages (10 points)
- Imagery: use it! We are going to be learning about how to make your writing more interesting and how to create images. Don't ignore that tool!

I got this assignment from National Public Radio's three-minute fiction piece. Occasionally, they'll have a national contest for three-minute stories. These stories need to be read in the space of three minutes: thus, the name Three-Minute Story. You get to write one of these! Your story must make sense, though you may not have a lot of time to fill in background material. Within this story you can develop setting, character, plot, conflict, dialogue, and any other story element you deem essential. The story's length should be approximately two-three pages, double-spaced. This assignment is fairly open, so don't be afraid to be creative. Usually the contest has specific parameters: for one of the rounds one of the characters has to tell a joke and one of the characters has to cry. In another round, the entire story had to be in the form of a voice message. For this assignment you won't have any lines you need to use or parameters (though if you're stuck, I can provide some). The one element you need to not be creative with is grammar. If you have a character(s) who speaks in broken grammar, that's okay; otherwise, stick with a traditional view of grammar. *Two things you must do are include a properly used semicolon and a properly used colon.* The link to the webpage follows:

<http://www.npr.org/2010/11/14/131314768/three-minute-fiction-the-winner-is>