

Toolbox

The Three-Minute Story

I got this assignment from National Public Radio's three-minute fiction piece. Occasionally, they'll have a national contest for three-minute stories. Usually 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 will be writing a similar short story, but you won't have any lines you need to use or parameters. Your story will need to be read in the space of three minutes: thus, the name Three-Minute Story. 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. 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.

If you would like to look at NPR samples, follow this link:

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

Tuesday, December 17 Apostrophe homework
 Apostrophe classwork
 Hand out Three Minute Story assignment
 Read story samples
 Solidify recipes

Thursday, December 19 Apostrophe quiz
 Hand in recipes!
 Imagery work in class
 Introduce parallelism

Friday, December 20 Review apostrophe quiz
 Review comma quiz

Tuesday, January 6 Parallelism
Work on stories in class

Thursday, January 8 More imagery work
Story draft

Friday, January 10 Stories due
Parallelism
Our feast!

Tuesday, January 14 Final exam prep

Thursday, January 16 Final exam