Writing Stories

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Course Objectives
Writing Stories is a course which is geared to writers who want to practice writing stories! We will be working on the following:
- generating ideas
- developing your writing process
- elements of stories
- editing your stories
- writing demons that surface in your stories

Like every Delta class, Writing Stories carries with it the expectations that students will be responsible for their work (come to class prepared, do their homework), and their learning (be active participants in their learning environment).   Preparation, participation and a positive attitude are essential!

Course Procedures
Attendance and Preparation
You must attend class every day and be prepared with homework completed. I will issue a calendar when possible that you can follow, but be aware that the calendar will be flexible. You are responsible for any changes that are made to the calendar, so it is important to listen to any announcements concerning changed dates. If you miss an assignment due to an absence, please see me as soon as possible. You must make arrangements immediately to make up your assignment, and it is your responsibility to contact me and arrange for a mutually convenient time as well as obtaining any notes from your peers. If you miss an assignment and do not have an excuse, you will receive a zero for that assignment. Late assignments are docked 10% for every day they are late. Weekends count as two days. Full day absences caused by extracurricular activities or field trips do not excuse students from taking scheduled quizzes or tests or handing in papers or homework assignments on the day of return.

Classroom Behavior
The classroom is a place for learning, so respect is essential. As this is a discussion-based class where all students will be sharing their writing, so it is necessary to be open to all opinions and ideas and to have only constructive criticism.

Assignments
Evaluations in this class will be based on a portfolio system and quizzes. All students will be expected to produce a certain amount of writing in multi-draft form, to process it through peer workshops and to "publish" it. At the conclusion of the course, you should have a number of final stories in your portfolio and one final product (more on that later).

This class will follow a set cycle:
1: Introduce literary element for the week, brainstorm ideas for stories.
2: Work day in class. Come prepared with a charged chromebook!
3: Quiz on literary element, peer editing.
4: Portfolio due: sharing stories and games.

The objective of this class is to get you writing, so you may write about anything you like (so long as it is school appropriate and a story). Each day four you will be handing in your portfolio made up entirely of stories. One of the pages will be on an assigned topic based on the literary element we discuss on day one. When you reach the bottom of the page, you may continue writing that story, or you may stop and change to a new story. You may work on the same story week after week, making it longer and more detailed, or you may start a new story whenever you wish. If you have problems ending stories, don't worry, you can just stop writing and start a new story.

Your cycle portfolio must consist of five typed pages (double-spaced, 12 point). Each cycle portfolio is worth 50 points (10 points per page). If your pages are short, you will lose points. If you have more than five pages, you can either receive extra credit (two points/page) or you can stockpile those pages to use later (just don't share them with me yet). **ESSENTIAL INFORMATION:** your pages **MUST** be in times font, 12 point, standard margins.

DO NOT USE ARIAL, THE GOOGLE.DOC DEFAULT!!!!

For the first two cycles, I will merely be identifying major grammatical snafus and no points will be removed; however, after the second cycle, you will start to lose points if these errors continue to resurface.

Your Final Piece
At the end of the marking period, you will have one final story due. This will be a polished, illustrated story that is your showpiece. The illustrations can be your own or downloaded from clip art or the internet and should be part of your story (not stapled to the end of it). You must have a minimum of three illustrations. We will go over this in more detail as the date approaches.

Final story requirements (50 points):
>   Final draft, typed, corrected, complete: 30 points
>   Cover page (story name, author's name, illustration?): 5 points
>   Illustrations: 10 points
>   Thoughtful consideration of package: 5 points