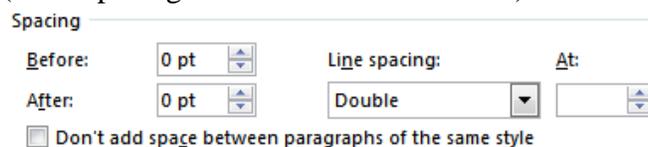


You are now ready to start writing your story! Yay! As you begin writing, keep these things in mind:

- Don't get bogged down with editing and revising as you write. There is time for that later! Just be concerned with getting your story down on paper.
- Include sensory details to make the setting seem like a real place.
- Show your reader what the characters are like on the surface by including information about how they are dressed, what they say, how they say it, and what the characters say to/about one another.
- Show your reader the hidden side of your characters as well. Depending on your point of view, reveal your characters' thoughts and feelings.
- Make your writing interesting and original by using figurative language.
- Use dialogue.
- Make sure the conflict in your story is very clear to the reader.
- Write concisely: keep conflict in mind as you add plot events. Check for cause-and-effect relationships between the events. Don't take "side trips" to places that don't logically make sense.
- Make sure the end of your story is a clear, logical end. Make sure you provide some type of resolution to the conflict; or if you want to leave the ending more subjective, be sure it achieves the desired effect by including elements of suspense and *intentional* ambiguity.

Guidelines for your story:

1. You should have at least 3 primary characters (1 main and 2 supporting), but you can range up to 5 if you want to do so. If you use more than 5, your story will start to become muddled and confusing.
2. Your story should be typed. Double spaced with no extra spaces between paragraphs.
  - a. 12-point Times New Roman or Calibri font
  - b. 1-inch margins
  - c. Double-spaced with no extra space between paragraphs  
(Your spacing bar should look like this: )



3. Your story should be at least 4 pages long (maximum is 8).

Rubric:

	10	8	6	4	2	0
Language	Language used that is always appropriate and effective for the topic and grade level	Language used that is mostly appropriate and effective for the topic and grade level	Language used that is occasionally appropriate and effective for the topic and grade level	Language used that is rarely appropriate and effective for topic and grade level	Language used that is rarely appropriate and effective for either topic or grade level	Language used that is not appropriate or effective for the topic and grade level
Clarity, Precision, and Focus	Story is always clear, precise, and focused—from beginning to end	Story is almost always clear, precise, and focused; gets off topic a bit	Story is almost always focused, but lacks clarity and precision	Story is occasionally focused, but lacks clarity and precision	Story is rarely clear, precise, or focused	Story is completely unclear, lacks precision, and is unfocused from beginning to end
Organization and Development	Storyline is consistently well organized and well developed	Storyline is mainly well organized and well developed, but is a bit disorganized in 3 or fewer areas	Storyline is mainly well organized and well developed, but is a bit disorganized in 4-5 areas	Storyline is somewhat well organized and well developed, but is disorganized in 6-8 areas	Storyline is rarely organized or developed, disorganized in 9-14 areas	Storyline is not organized or well developed, disorganized in 15+ areas
Grammar, Mechanics, Spelling, Contractions, etc.	0-3 errors can be found in paper	4-5 errors can be found in paper	6-7 errors can be found in paper	8-9 errors can be found in paper	10-11 errors can be found in paper	12+ errors can be found in paper
Characters and Character Development	1-2 main characters, 2-3 supporting characters present; all extremely well developed	1-2 main characters, 2-3 supporting characters present; most well developed, but sometimes lack clarity	1 main character, 1 supporting character present; main character is well-developed, but supporting character occasionally lacks clarity	1 main character, 1 supporting character present; main character is well-developed, but supporting character lacks clarity	1 main character, no supporting characters present; main character is somewhat well-developed, but occasionally lacks clarity	1 main character, no supporting characters present; main character is not well-developed
Format (font, paragraph, margins, etc.)	All formatting areas are followed	1 error in formatting	2 errors in formatting	3 errors in formatting	4 errors in formatting	5+ errors in formatting