

Creative Writing – Short Story Information & Submissions**First, a few things about your reading:**

- Tomorrow we will have a visit by author Peter Brown Hoffmeister!
 - *This is the Part Where You Laugh* quiz on the second half of the book is this Thursday.
 - *This is the Part Where You Laugh* packet is due this Friday.
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Short story (500-1000 words) – due Friday, January 19**Process:**

- **Fiction Planning Sheet** – brainstorm, two-page packet
- **Rough draft** – handwritten or typed
 - When finished, double-space if typed and print (Room 504) to be edited
- **Editing/Revising**
 - It's always a good idea to first read your own writing aloud in your own space.
 - Find an editing partner – have them complete the Editing Sheet you received and invite them to mark up your rough draft with praise, questions, and polish.
 - If you typed your rough draft, before going any further, create a second version of it to work on. Simply put a “2” at the end of the file name. This way, your original version remains intact in case you need to return to it for some reason.
 - Edit – this entails fixing all the smaller things in your draft – conventions errors, playing with word choice and sentence structure, etc.
 - Revise – this entails looking at the bigger picture – adding, altering, and/or removing elements of plot, character, and/or setting. This is the real work that will make your story better! Remember, you can always revert to your original version if you don't like the direction any part of your revision takes.
- **Second draft** – optional. You can print your second draft (still double-spaced) and give it directly to Mr. Cantwell for feedback, which he can provide the following day.
- **Final draft** – should be typed. Do not include a traditional heading. Instead, just center the title at the top, skip a line, and write your name. Font and line spacing is up to you. Try to make your story fit on as few pages as possible.

You need to turn in what will count as two grades by Friday, January 19th:

- Final draft – by itself (*Proof*)
- Planning sheet, Rough draft (marked up), and Editing sheet – stapled together (*Practice*)

Finished early, with extra class time? Here are three options:

- Make yourself available for editing/revising other students' stories.
- Create artwork for your story, which you might include in your zine.
 - Art can be hand-drawn or digital.
- Begin the process for submitting your story (more on the back...)

Short Story Submissions – due Friday, January 26

For this assignment, you will submit your short story to at least three different lit journals, magazines, or contests!

First, research markets for your story. Don't pay to submit and don't submit to vanity sites – there must be an editor who accepts or rejects submissions. I strongly encourage you to submit to *Figure of Speech*, the SEHS literary journal. See the links on Mr. Cantwell's "CW – Documents" page for more ideas. A good place to start there is the "Poets & Writers" link (you can also Google "poets and writers literary database.") Select "Fiction" from the genre dropdown button and "Flash fiction" from the subgenre dropdown button. You can follow the links to different journals' websites to see if they are currently accepting submissions and what their guidelines are. Standard font for journal submissions is 12 pt. Times, double-spaced.

Many journals require you to submit through something called "Submittable." This is legit; most authors use it. It is free to create a Submittable account.

You must make your three submissions and share proof of submitting with me by **Friday, January 26**. If you are submitting via email, please "bcc" the email to me at cantwell@4j.lane.edu or just also "share" it with me through google docs. If you submit via Submittable or another submission manager, you can do one of the following: print your submission record, show me your submission record, or take a screenshot of your submission record and e-mail it to me at the address above.

In most cases, you will need a cover letter. This might be the body of the e-mail, in the "add a note" box in google docs, or a message in a window provided in Submittable. Keep it short and simple. These cover letters are typically two paragraphs. Include the title and word count in the first paragraph. In the second paragraph, working authors are able to list previous publications or writing accomplishments, which you may not have. Feel free to include anything that you feel gives your writing legitimacy, but also try not to come off as an amateur. It is fine to just have the first paragraph. Have me or someone else read this letter, and then edit/revise it. Here is the cover letter I used for a recent acceptance:

Dear Editors,

I am submitting my short story, "Runner" (5,700 words), for your consideration in *The Massachusetts Review*. I hope you find it a good fit for your journal.

I hold an MFA from the Rainier Writing Workshop at Pacific Lutheran University. My fiction has appeared or is forthcoming in *Whitefish Review*, *Newfound*, *Cirque*, *Wisconsin Review*, *Weber-The Contemporary West*, *New Ohio Review*, *Flyway*, and *American Literary Review*.

Sincerely,
Tom Cantwell

Good luck! Let me know if you have any questions throughout the process, and definitely let me know if your story is accepted!