Fiction - Short Story - Order of Operations

1. Planning packet

2. Rough draft – handwritten or typed, use spell check/grammar check

3. **Double-space** rough draft and print (Room 504)

4. Edit (on your own or with a partner):
   - Use the ‘Editing Sheet’ provided
   - Discuss Praise-Question-Polish if working with a partner
   - Mark up rough draft with a pen:
     - fix conventions errors
     - find places to indent:
       - dialogue – each new speaker (see back)
       - scene changes

5. Revise (on your own or with a partner):
   - Sentence level - sentence fluency:
     - vary sentence beginnings
     - vary sentence lengths
     - vary sentence types (see back):
       - simple sentence
       - compound sentence
       - complex sentence
       - compound-complex sentence
   - Big picture - what can/should be tightened/deleted?
   - Big picture - what can/should be changed?
   - Big picture - what can/should be added?

6. Turn your rough draft into a masterpiece!

7. Optional – 2nd draft – Have Mr. Cantwell/Mrs. Nelson take a second look:
   - Hand them a clean copy – *not in the basket*

8. Final draft – must be typed:
   - Heading: Name, Period, “Fiction,” and word count
   - Title at the top, centered
   - You may choose font, size, and spacing

**Turn in these three things on Friday, September 27th:**

- Final draft – turned in by itself (“Proof”)
- Writing work – stapled and turned in by itself (“Practice”):
  - Planning packet
  - Marked up rough draft
  - Editing Sheet
- Reading packet – from independent reading, turned in by itself (“Practice”)

**Finished early with all three things? Work on one of the following:**

- Make yourself available for editing/revising other students’ stories
- Create illustrations/artwork for your story, either hand-drawn or digital
- Begin the process for submitting your story (more info coming soon!)
- Work on your website (more info coming soon!)
Four Sentence Types

Simple sentence
- Contains a subject and a verb and expresses a single complete thought that can stand on its own. This is an independent clause.
- Example: The baby cried for food.

Compound sentence
- Has two independent clauses joined by a conjunction (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so)
- Example: The baby cried for food, but his mother was busy.

Complex sentence
- Has an independent clause joined by one or more dependent clauses. A dependent clause either lacks a subject and verb or does not express a complete thought.
- A complex sentence has a subordinator (as, because, since, after, although, when) or relative pronouns (who, that, which)
- Example: Because he was hungry, the baby cried for food.

Compound-Complex sentence
- Has two independent clauses and at least one dependent clause.
- Example: Because he was hungry, the baby cried for food, but his mother was busy.

Writing Better Dialogue

Peter Brown Hoffmeister – Blog post on August 15, 2018

I’m in a coffee shop, eavesdropping on multiple conversations, and I’ve realized a few things:

- People mostly talk about themselves. They don’t ask a lot of questions. They’re just waiting to say the next thing about themselves.
- Real dialogue sentences are short. People speak in short, simple sentences. They don’t have vast vocabularies and they don’t speak in complex metaphors. So when writing dialogue, keep it simple. Save your complexities for your paragraphs of exposition.
- People say, “I feel like...” “It seems like...” and “The thing is...” ALL THE TIME.
- In real dialogue, people repeat their favorite phrases over and over. The guy next to me has said, “Well, people are stupid” 8 times already in less than 10 minutes.
- People trail off when they speak. They speak in half sentences, then make gestures with their hands. If the conversation is animated, the other person will jump in and finish each half-sentence. If the conversation isn’t animated or emotionally charged, people will sit back, and there will be long pauses while the person gestures vaguely with his or her hands.

Example (by Mr. Cantwell):

“"I was totally getting air,” he said, sliding into their favorite booth by the window. She sat, picked up a menu, and said, “Really?”
“Totally. I was, like, this high!” He spread his arms three feet apart. “And I totally landed it clean.”
“Really?” She raised her hand to get the waitress’s attention. “You eating anything?”