



The World's Shortest Narrative

This practice in narrative writing is a challenge. If given no limit on the length of a story, of course a writer can include all of the elements of a quality narrative. But can an author do that in one page? Half a page? Less, even?

For this narrative, your challenge is to write the shortest possible complete story that includes all of the necessary elements of a quality narrative. Use your text and notes to assist you in writing, and think about what you know about good storytelling before you begin. Consider the following qualities of good narration. Peer panels will read and evaluate your story. The shortest story with the most qualities of good narrative writing will win the challenge!

Type your essay, double-spaced, in 12 point Times New Roman font. Use a standard MLA heading.

Remember: the shorter, the better!

Qualities:

- Good stories are complete. That is, they include a narrative hook, exposition, rising action, a climax, falling action, and a resolution.
- Good stories must have a point. There should be a clear message or theme.
- Good stories must include pertinent details, relevant events, and purposeful pacing.
- Good stories must be appealing to their readers.
- Good stories must have a structure. Whether the author implements a traditional first, then, next, last sequence of events or mixes it up with flashbacks and alternate timeframes, the structure of the story should enhance the telling.
- Good stories often include figures of speech like similes, metaphors, or analogies.
- Good stories are almost always written in active voice.
- Good stories must include powerful and precise modifiers.
- Good stories include authentic, engaging dialogue.
- Good stories include both language and action. In short, show, don't tell.
- Good stories develop the setting to set the context and mood.