

Historical Fiction

You are going to take a historical event and turn it into a new story. A story that is totally unique. Using materials of the class, write an original piece of work using famous historical events. The focus is not to distort or change history, but to describe history through the eyes of a person that may have experienced it. Focus on the drive, motives, and reactions to people and things going on around them.

Events to write about:

GREECE

Assassination of Phillip II
Death of Socrates
Alexander's Death

MESOPOTAMIA

Loss at Gaugamela
1st Crusade
Introduction of Islam

ROME

Assassination of Caesar
Fire of Rome
Murder of Remus

CHINA

Construction of Great Wall
Zheng He Sails to Africa
Mongol Invasion

FEUDALISM/VIKINGS

Vikings land in N. America
Death of Charlemagne
Split of Church

HIGH MIDDLE AGES

1st Crusade
Columbus Lands
Black Plague

RENAISSANCE

Martin Luther 95 Thesis'
1st View of Sistine Chapel
Working on David

AZTECS

Cortez meets Montezuma
NO HUMAN SACRIFICE!!!
Fall of the Capital

INCA

Death of Atahualpa
Atahualpa/Pizarro Meet
Living during Predictions

EGYPT

Coronation of Hatshepsut
Exodus
Death of Ramses

INDIA

First Contact with Alex the Great
Introduction of Hinduism

AFRICA

Traveling the Sahara
Living on the Sahel
Contact with Portuguese

The stories must be typed, 14 pt font, double spaced

You may work with another person and combine characters in a story

Things to remember while writing:

6 Key elements: Setting, Plot, Conflict, Character, Point of View, and Theme.

Setting: a. Geographical location: The actual physical environment of the area.

Describe specific geographical features of the culture the story takes place.

b. Time: Already pre-determined by which historical event you are writing about. The only thing that is up in the air is when the story takes place, meaning before, during, or after the historical event.

c. Physical Environment: This is what would be seen, and the physical environment of the character. Describe city life in Rome or a farm in an Aztec nation. Explain what the character would experience on a daily basis.

d. Cultural attributes: This is how the person would behave and what would be socially acceptable to the story. Social customs and social interaction.

e. Personal attributes: Describe your main character. This is up to you. How will they act? How do they feel about the historical event? What is their profession.

Plot: The plot is how the author arranges events to develop his basic idea; It is the sequence of events in a story.

- A. Introduction: The beginning of the story where the characters and the setting is revealed.
- B. Rising Action: This is where the events in the story become complicated and the conflict in the story is revealed
- C. Climax: This is the highest point of interest and the turning point of the story
- D. Falling Action: The events and complications begin to resolve themselves
- E. Denouncement: This is the final outcome or untangling of events in the story

Conflict: There are two types of conflict:

- 1. External: A struggle with a force outside one's self.
- 2. Internal: A struggle within one's self; a person must make some decision, overcome pain, etc.

There are four kinds of conflict:

- 1. Man vs. Man (Physical) The leading character struggles with his physical strength against other men
- 2. Man vs. Circumstances (Classical) The leading character struggles against fate, or the circumstances of life facing him/her.
- 3. Man vs. Society (Social) The leading character struggles against ideas, practices, or customs of other people.
- 4. Man vs. Himself (Psychological) The leading character struggles with himself; with his own soul, ideas of right or wrong, physical limitations

Point of View:

1. Innocent Eye: Story told through the eyes of a child (judgment and observations are those of a child, not an adult)
2. Stream of Consciousness: The story is told so that the reader feels as if they are inside the head of one character and knows all their thoughts and reactions
3. First person: The story is told by the protagonist or one of the characters who interacts closely with the protagonist or other characters (using pronouns I, me, we) The reader only experiences the story through their eyes, and only knows what he feels
4. Omniscient: The author can narrate the story by moving from character to character, event to event
 - a. Omniscient Limited: Tells the story through the third person (using pronouns they, she, he)
 - b. Omniscient Objective: The author tells the story in the third person. The story is told as if being followed by a camera. We only know and hear what is revealed. There is no use of a person's inner thoughts.