

Mini Story

English 250: Creative Writing

Instructor: Laura Power

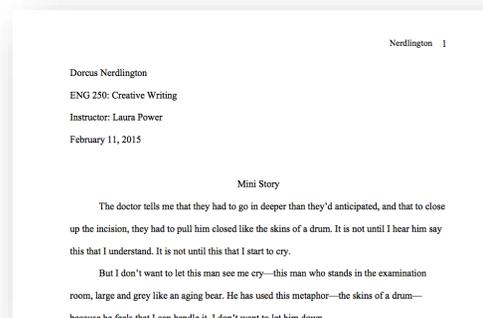
For this fifth and final “mini” assignment, we’ll be exploring story through an adaptation of the Try This 6.6 (181). You will recall an experience that frightened you and write about **only** the last fifteen minutes of it (or, if it lasted only fifteen minutes, the last five). As the exercise states, you will need to “jump into the action quickly” and “have time for few explanations.” Don’t worry about naming yourself or other “characters” in the story (use David Foster Wallace’s story as an example of naming characters for immediate recognition); don’t worry about setting the scene or giving exposition. Just start with the end of the action.

The activity asks for **no more than two pages**, and I am going to hold you to that. I want **no more** than five paragraphs, and **you will not** go over two pages of text. This is an exercise in story, but it is also an exercise in concise, immediate prose; write the scene and then edit it down to be as brief as possible.

As part of your editing process, you will **cut out all unnecessary adjectives and all adverbs**. Show through action. Do not tell.

Format

- Times New Roman 12-point font
- Double-Spaced
- 1” margins
- Class heading (upper **left** of page one: student name/class/instructor name/date)
- Header (upper **right** of each page: student last name & page #)



Length

4 – 5 paragraphs, approximately 1.25 – 2 pages—**and not a line over a second page, and not an inkling of a sixth paragraph**

DUE

Monday, February 11 (for small group workshop [you only need **one** copy])

This assignment will work on the following ENG 250 course objective/s: Develop a familiarity with the diverse literary genres, including but not limited to poetry, short fiction, long-fiction, drama, and creative nonfiction; Develop and refine skills in producing, editing, and revising original works within the various genres; Demonstrate an understanding of different literary genres, styles, voices, and approaches; Demonstrate an ability to read and respond thoughtfully and critically in both oral and written form to other students’ work

Story Mini			
Student Name: <i>(complete self-assessment column before submitting to instructor)</i>			
To get a “Ready” assessment, assignment must receive “Ready” marks for all four criteria			Student Self-Assessment
Format & Length	Ready: Writer follows complete and correct format per instructor’s specifications; Length requirements for maximum and minimum length are met	Not Yet	Indicate your prediction here:
Content	Ready: Content is true to assignment: Student jumps into the last action of a personal/non-fiction scene and does not over explain setting, character, or conflict	Not Yet	Indicate your prediction here:
Style	Ready: Student uses first person, concrete details, and active verbs; Student uses limited adjectives and no adverbs—all story, conflict, and character development are demonstrated through active verbs and character action rather than narrative exposition	Not Yet	Indicate your prediction here:
Proofreading and Editing	Ready: Writer has proofread and edited work so that it is free of major grammatical errors, spelling errors, and typographical errors	Not Yet	Indicate your prediction here:
Instructor Feedback:			