

Student Name:

Planning Fiction

DIRECTIONS: Follow the prewriting steps below to gather ideas for your story.

Prewriting Steps	
1	Determine the conflict of your narrative.
2	Use characterization to develop your main character.
3	Brainstorm details that will “show” your setting.
4	Outline the sequence of events that will make up your plot.

Step 1: Determine the conflict of your narrative. Use the chart below to list possible conflicts for your story. Select the one you feel will engage readers the most. Keep in mind what genre you would prefer to use.

person vs. person	
person vs. nature	
person vs. society	
person vs. technology	
person vs. supernatural	
person vs. self	

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Step 2: Use characterization to develop your main character. Imagine the perfect character to face the conflict you've chosen. Fill in the chart below to create a believable identity for this character.

Name:		Age:	
Physical Appearance:			
Where s/he is from:			
Job / Major activities in life:			
Fears / Hopes:			

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Step 3: Brainstorm details that will “show” your setting. With your conflict and main character in mind, decide where and when your story will take place. Rather than “telling” the setting directly, think of clues and sensory details that will “show” the setting.

List some clues that suggest the time of your story.

Climate Clues (What is the weather like? What animals/plants hint at the season?)	Technology Clues (What vehicles / tools / devices do people use?)	Clothing Clues (How do the characters dress?)	Building Clues (What types of buildings are in the story?)

Think of an important location in your story. Use your five senses to help “show” this place. What do you want readers to see? Hear? Smell? Taste? Feel?

Step 4: Outline the sequence of events that will make up your plot.

Exposition	
Rising action	
Climax	
Falling action	
Resolution	