

Essay Cycle #1: The Cuento Family Story

Overview			
Goals	Readings	Essay Topic	Grammar
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Writing Process Orienting yourself toward a writing topic Brainstorming/Prewriting Description Showing--specification Review sentence basics and punctuation 	Irvin Guides The Writing Process (ppt) -- podcast The Writing Process Power of Description from <i>Scott, Foresman Handbook</i> pp. 2-73	Essay Topic: Interview an older family member and tell a story of a significant event in their life. Cuentos Family Story	GRE WK2 --Sentence Basics GRE WK3 --Punctuation See the GRE Assignment Sheet for full details on the assignments.

Due Dates for Work in Essay Cycle #1

Due date	Assignment	Due date	Assignment
9/8 **	Task 1: Complete interview	9/9	Task 6: First draft due (E1-1)
9/8 **	Task 2: Reading about the writing process	9/12	Task 8: Peer response on first draft (E1-1)
9/7	Task 3: GRE WK2 on Sentence Basics	9/12	Task 9: Writing Review draft E1-1
9/8	Task 4: Practice descriptions	9/11	Task 7: GRE WK 3 on Punctuation
9/8	Task 5: Brainstorming exercises	9/14	Tasks 10,11,12: Revising and Turning in the Final Draft

** Tasks should be completed by this date. No work due.

Essay #1 Learning and Writing Activities

Task 1) Get Oriented to the Essay Assignment

Read through this entire Essay Cycle Assignment Sheet and the [Cuentos Family Story](#) to get an overview about what we will be doing for the next ten days. Also, review the Grammar Review Exercises assignment sheet to see the two exercises we will do for this essay cycle.

Start working on the Cuento Story right away--plan to have your interview done by Sat. 9/8.

Task 2: Learning About the Writing Process

Take a close look at these two resources on the Writing Process

[The Writing Process](#) (ppt) -- [podcast](#)

[The Writing Process](#)

Read the first part of the Scott, Foresman Handbook (SFH) on the Writing Process: pp. 2-73. This is a lot of reading, so be sure to skim where you need to.

I encourage you to mark your text as you read to note important ideas (you will still be able to sell the book back if you wish...). Take notes as you read. Study these writings by looking over the readings again after your first read through. (Complete by 9/8)

Task 3) Grammar Review Exercise WK2--Sentence Basics: Independent and Dependent Clauses (due 9/7)

See the [GRE Assignment Sheet](#) for full details on the assignments and how to access the exercises inside Exercise Central.

Task 4) Active Learning on Writing Descriptively

1) Read and study the guide to description you used in the Book Project: [Power of Description](#)
Also, look over additional examples of descriptions being used: [Power of Description--Examples](#)

2) Practice Descriptions (due 9/8)

Look at the last part of [The Power of Description guide](#). It has a few practice sentences for you to try out these techniques and to practice "showing and not telling."

Go to the Essay Cycle #1 Folder in our BB course home page and find a Discussion called "Practice Descriptions." **Do two sentences** (in separate posts) where you open the sentence up with a full paragraph of "showing" description (100 words minimum). For example, you could open up, "He was angry" or "It was a beautiful day." Look at my example in the forum before you do yours. (You don't want to do just the single sentence opening--you want the full paragraph "showing.")

Task 5) Invention: Brainstorming on Your Topic (due 9/8)

Open up the Essay Topic: [Cuentos Family Story](#) .

NOTE: You need to have completed your interview before you do these invention exercises.

First--"**Freewrite**" on the story for about ten minutes, trying to retell the whole thing as you recall it. (Note--this freewriting is NOT the draft. It is intended to help you get ideas and familiarize yourself with the terrain of the story.)

What is "freewriting?" You will hear more about what it is in the Peter Elbow book in the first part, but here is a [brief guide to freewriting](#)--please read before you do your freewriting.

Second--"**List**": open a word processing document and **list** as many details, impressions, and phrases as you can recall related to the story. Also list details that you remember from the actually telling of the story such as where you have heard it before, when it's told, and who tells it. You the six journalistic questions: who, what, when, where, why, and how. Some of these details of the story may need to be filled in by your imagination since you perhaps were not there when the story happened. Just get as much stuff down about the story as you can; don't worry about any sort of order. This hopefully will be a lot of stuff.

Turn in the "EI Invention" discussion forum within one document (due 9/8)

--the freewriting

--the listing

Task 6) Writing a First Draft (due 9/9)

The invention/brainstorming work you did above should have gotten you ready to write. I suggest you review your notes and freewriting and list as well as the Power of Description guide one last time. (You might keep them handy as you write.)

Then, when you are ready, retell the story as fully and completely, and as entertainingly, as you can. **Be as descriptive as you can**, and include dialogue where needed (see brief guide below). Imagine that your **audience** is your peers as well as your family and the original storyteller, and that your **purpose** is to get the original storyteller to nod their head and say, "yea, that's it, you told it just right." Try to practice **showing and not telling**.

TWO THINGS TO REMEMBER AS YOU WRITE YOUR FIRST DRAFT

1) Focus is important--be sure you are telling one story of one event and not the entire chronicle of a person's life

2) This is a first draft, so don't worry about having it "correct" yet. Write freely and let it come out. Don't worry about grammar, punctuation, perfect description or other concerns. Just write. Of course, polish and fix as make sense to you, but this is a rough draft--it is ok to be rough.

If you are using dialogue, you might find this short guide to using punctuation with dialogue helpful:

Basics of punctuating dialogue

1) Set up dialogue with a comma

---- e.g. He **said**, "**Hello** there." or "Hello **there**," **he** said.

2) Put end punctuation INSIDE the quotation marks

---- e.g. She replied, "Where have you **been**?"

----e.g. "That's my **business**," **he** said.

3) Start a new paragraph each time a different speaker begins talking.

For this first draft, don't worry about having EVERYTHING PERFECT. Just write. Focus as best you can on telling the story fully and being descriptive.

Posting Your First Drafts

Please post your first draft inside Canvas in the Assignment called "Essay I--First Draft." Just copy and paste the text into a new message inside that forum.

Task 7) Grammar Review Exercise WK2--Run-ons and Sentence Fragments (due 9/11)

See the [GRE Assignment Sheet](#) for full details on the assignments and how to access the exercises inside Exercise Central.

Task 8) Peer Response (due 9/12)

I will ask you to do peer response on your peers' first drafts of the Family Story. You will be asked to do THREE peer responses.

Please follow the instructions and peer response questions provided in this [EI-I Peer Response Guide](#). (I suggest that you print it so you have it handy as you do peer response.) I likely will have more guidance on doing peer response in the Class Announcement for 9/8 or 9/9

Task 9) Writer's Review (due 9/12)

AFTER you have finished peer responses and BEFORE you begin revising your final draft for the Family Story, please take some time to

1) Review the peer responses you received

2) Look closely at this guide about [Revising and Developing Your Story](#)

3) Then write your "Writer's Review" following the instructions below

What is a "Writer's Review"

A Writer's Review is a chance for you "between the drafts" to think and strategize on paper about where you are in working on a piece of writing and where you plan to take it. These writing pieces ask you to stand back and look at your own writing and where you are in working on a draft and gain some perspective. With this perspective you will notice key problems you face and think of ways you will solve them. These self-evaluations are for your purposes, so I urge you to put a lot into them. I am asking you to write 150 words minimum on these reflective pieces, but you certainly could do more.

Doing Your Writer's Review

Re-read the Topic Sheet for this essay ([Cuentos Family Story](#)) and then re-read your essay draft along with the responses you received from your peers. When you are ready, write in a separate word processing file on the topic below. When you are done, you will post it into the "EI-I Writing Review" discussion forum.

Writer's Review Topic (for Family Story Essay draft #1)

What do you feel are the strengths and weaknesses in your draft so far? What do you feel you need to work on the most at this point? What MORE or LESS do you think you need? Where do you need to "show" more? How will you go about revising your essay to work on these things?

--your response to this topic should be a minimum of 150 words

Task 10: Revising Your Draft--first revision

Look closely at the guide about [Revising and Developing Your Story](#) and peek again at what you wrote in your Writer's Review. Then revise your Family Story to make it better in any way you think it should be. Try to OPEN the story up, in particular, by using description to SHOW and NOT TELL wherever you can and it makes sense to do so.

For this "first revision" of your draft, DON'T WORRY ABOUT GRAMMAR JUST YET. Just write, fix, add, cut, move around. (I won't be having you turn in this intermediate revision, but it is important to do before you edit closely).

Task 11: Revising Your Draft--final editing

Before you edit your revised draft, spend time reviewing the Grammar Review Exercises topic for this week: **Punctuation**

--You should have completed your WK3 GRE focused on punctuation last Wed. 9/11.

--Get your handbook out, and skim over the chapters in the SF handbook (Part VI, particularly chapter 35 on commas)

When you are ready to edit, print a copy of your revised essay in its current manifestation. Studies have shown that we edit much better from a printed copy than on screen. Look over your essay CAREFULLY for any errors related to punctuation. Check any questions you have in the handbook. Also, correct any other errors you come across. Incorporate these changes into your final draft. **Do a spell check.**

Whatever you do--DON'T SKIP THIS GRAMMAR REVIEW AND EDITING STAGE OF WORKING ON YOUR ESSAY!

Special Note About Including Graphics In Your Story

IF you are able to take a picture or scan any of the significant "artifacts" associated with this "cuento" you are telling, I encourage you to put them in the story. I did this project on an event that happened to my Dad in World War II. I included some scanned photographs I found from an old photo album and I even scanned his Army patch that was in the same scrap book and I put the image of it in the story.

You are certainly not required to include these kinds of artifacts, but if you can include them, please do.

Task 12: Turning in Your Final Draft of Essay #1 (due 9/14)

When you feel that your Cuento Family Story is ready to submit, please first put it into MLA Manuscript Format. [View this website from the Purdue OWL](#) with an explanation of what that means as well as page 700 in the SFH.

Your paper needs to be double-spaced, with 1" margins, using 12 point font. You also need a heading in the main text of the first page and pagination in the header. See [this youtube video](#) on getting page numbers into your header.

When you have your story in proper MLA Manuscript Format, please submit the final draft to the "Essay #1 Final Draft" assignment. You should upload your file. Once it is uploaded, stand up and do a little dance. You did it!

***NOTE ON FILE FORMATS: If you are using Open Office or Microsoft Works, please resave your file first as a Word file or an RTF file formatted document and then upload that resaved file. ***

Files not turned in in MLA Manuscript Format lose -5 points from the grade.