

Bridgeport Public Schools

Young Author's Student Reference Guide



How To Write a Great Story



The best writers take time to write stories that others will enjoy reading.





Once you choose an idea for your story, do the following:

- **Brainstorm a list of ideas or things you know about the topic. Write these ideas down on a piece of paper.**
- **Read your ideas and choose three main ideas that you feel you can create a lot of details for.**
- **Once you select your three main ideas, begin writing.**
- **As you write, ask others to read what you've written so far and make suggestions.**
- **You can also use the check list in this booklet to help you.**



What important information should I include in my writing?

- Get some facts and information. If you are writing about Puffins read about them or get pictures of their habitat.
- If you are writing about your family or friend, ask people who know about them.
- If your writing about yourself, ask your parents if they remember the day that you were born and all the cute things that you did when you were younger.
- If you are going to make up a fantasy or adventure think about using the five “W” questions **Who, What, When, Where, Why?**
- Think about what you did this summer for vacation. Write stories using your family vacation pictures.
- Think about your favorite foods or things you like to cook if you are making a recipe book.
- Ask your teacher about different types of poems if you are creating a poetry book.



Narrative Writing Self Check List

- **An entertaining beginning**
- **Characters**
- **Setting**
- **Initiating Event-** the character has an ordinary day at the beginning of the story and then something goes wrong or becomes a problem
- **Characters' feelings/ reaction to the problem**
- **Plan-** how is the character going to solve his/her problem; **Think of First, Next, Then, and Finally.**
- **Consequence-** what happened to the character because of the problem
- **Resolution-** how the character solves his/her problem and how he/she feels now



Is my story the best it can be
and do I think other will enjoy reading it?

If the answer is yes, then it is time to publish
your book.

Publishing Tips:

- 1. Create an interesting cover that includes your full name, grade, and the name of your school.**
- 2. Add illustrations, pictures, photos, or other items.**
- 3. Bind it together with a spiral binder, rings, or ribbon.**
- 4. Laminate the cover page if possible.**
- 5. Create an “all about the author” page so the people that read your story can learn all about your story.**



**What will happen once
my book is published?**

It will be:

- 1. Submitted to your literacy coach**
- 2. Judged by your school leadership team**
- 3. Entered into the Young Author's Celebration if selected as a winner.**
- 4. Acknowledged by your school**