Narrative writing planner

Fewer events, told well, beat a long plot. Plan one problem, one turning point and an ending that means something.

5 minutes
Plan on this sheet

30 minutes
Write

7 minutes
Read it back and fix it

Story idea Copy the prompt, then sum up my story in one sentence

Character

Who are they, and what do they want or fear?

How will they change by the end?

Setting and voice

Where and when? One detail that sets the mood

Point of view (first or third person) and tense

Story map

Write a few words in each part

Opening	Complication	Rising tension	Climax	Resolution
Drop the reader into a moment, not a summary.	What disrupts the character's world?	Choices and obstacles that raise the stakes.	The turning point or decision.	What has changed? Leave the reader thinking.

What is my story really about? The theme or message: courage, belonging, loss, trust...

Title

Techniques to try

- ☐ Start in the middle of the action
- ☐ A short flashback
- ☐ Dialogue that reveals character
- ☐ Sensory imagery
- ☐ Simile or metaphor
- ☐ Short sentences for tension

Show, don't tell

> ~~He was nervous about the speech.~~

> He folded the speech into smaller and smaller squares until the corners went soft.

Avoid

- "It was all a dream" endings
- Too many characters
- Lists of events with no tension

Last 7 minutes

- ☐ A new paragraph for each shift in time, place or speaker
- ☐ Dialogue punctuated correctly
- ☐ Consistent tense and point of view
- ☐ Varied sentence openings
- ☐ Spelling of ambitious words

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