

“When Vacations Attack!”

Realistic Fiction Narrative

Creative Writing / Research Project

Introduction

Everyone loves a good story. And everyone loves a good story even more when an event in that story goes awfully, dreadfully, horribly wrong. Realistic fiction seeks to tell a story that is realistic in nature yet nonetheless exciting. With that being said, a work of realistic fiction has a main conflict that is unique to that particular story, which is what makes one story stand out from the next.

Directions

Your assignment is to write a short story of between 500 and 1,000 words that focuses on a vacation gone wrong. You should base your story on careful research so that readers get a true sense of the vacation destination.

Write your story in first or third person and use your vacation destination (or a component of it) as the setting. The tone of your story should evoke a specific mood in the writer: perhaps humorous, adventurous, grim, or shocking. The plot should be realistic in nature, meaning that it should be about an event that could *actually* happen. Remember, however, that the plot of your story should seek to convey a significant experience and should excite or interest the reader. You should focus your narrative on one main character, although, you may have multiple characters. This main character should be the “hero” of the story.

Pre-writing

1. Choose a time and a place.
2. Narrow your topic. Use the list of ideas we brainstormed together in class. Ask the following questions
 - a. Who and what do you see?
 - b. What do you hear?
 - c. What are people doing?
 - d. What could realistically go wrong in this place?
3. Free-write about your topic, to give it a test drive. You may find that as you write you will need to do more research.
4. If you are happy with your topic, begin embellishing the story with details so it has more depth and is authentically connected to your vacation destination.
5. Read your narrative aloud, looking for holes in the plot and characters.
6. Make revisions.
7. Share your narrative with a small audience.
8. Make revisions.