

Name: _____

Period: _____

Suspense Narrative Reflection

For your reflection, you will write a letter to yourself wherein you address the questions found below. Your letter will be written in a well-structured response, meaning that *each* question is:

- (1) introduced via “restating the prompt” (the questions themselves should not appear)
- (2) answered completely (address all parts of the question)
- (3) explained in full (answering the how’s and why’s and using specific examples)
- (4) wrapped up before moving onto the next

***Please proof read! Treat this as seriously as you did your Suspense Narrative. It is worth a total of 15 points. Each response (to the questions below) is worth 2 points, and an appropriate address/sign off is worth 1.**

***HINT:** In a “well-structured” response, you must structure the paragraphs of your response in a clear and logical manner. DO NOT number your responses.

***CHALLENGE:** Use transitional ideas/sentences to move from one question/answer to the next (either as a concluding statement or a topic sentence).

You should structure your letter as it appears below. (See my example on the back!)

Dear _____,

1. *Paragraph 1: Choosing a Topic and Setting a Purpose*
 - a. How did you choose to write about this particular topic? (i.e., Did you have any inspirations?)
 - b. Do you feel you’ve accomplished your purpose? (i.e., Was it suspenseful? Entertaining?)
2. *Paragraph 2: The Writing Process*
 - a. What difficulties did you encounter during the unit? How did you overcome them?
 - b. What new concepts have you learned this unit? How did they impact your piece?
 - c. How has the self-revision processes impacted your writing?
3. *Paragraph 3: Growing as a Writer*
 - a. What improvements have you seen in your writing from last year?
 - b. What is your goal for the next unit in Writing Workshop? Be specific! (i.e., Instead of saying that you want to get a B, what do you plan to do in order to get a B? Look back at your Persuasive Editorial Reflection to consider the goal that you set for yourself last time.)

Sincerely,

Note: If there are other comments, concerns, or revelations that you would like to include in your reflection, please feel free to do so (either within your answers to the questions above—if appropriate—, or within a different paragraph).

Sample Suspense Narrative Reflection

Dear Ms. Hanner,

Congratulations! You are finished with your Suspense Narrative, and you nailed it, girlfriend. You came up with a great idea for your topic. How cool, to have a horrifying natural disaster occur in the middle of the rousing game of squash! I definitely did not see that coming. It was so suspenseful, and your use of interior dialogue and vivid sensory details really helped to bring the story to life. Because you slowed down your climax as well as you did, you truly succeeded in building suspense and keeping your readers on the edge of their seats.

But it didn't always come easily, did it? To begin, you had way too many words, even though Ms. Hanner told you on the first day that you couldn't exceed 1500. You couldn't help it! And how could you? Words just flow out of you like Coca-Cola from a soda fountain. Fortunately, she gave you some great advice as to how to cut down: you were forced to consider the purpose of each and every scene in your piece, which helped you to realize that you definitely had some unnecessary characters. Snip snip. Goodbye. Beyond that, you learned how to make your character incredibly rich and engaging by considering his fears and desires. If you had neglected to do that, your character may have been flat, which would have made it hard for your readers to care about him. But because you showed the reader that he was afraid of being wrong, he immediately had more depth, and the readers could more easily connect with him. Thank goodness for self-revision, because your first draft needed a lot of work in this regard. By revising the ending so that your character realized his tragic flaw and how he grew from it, there was a clear theme, which tied your story up like a pretty purple present. (Hey, that's a compositional risk!)

Last year, when you would write a story, you wouldn't necessarily have a strong conflict. Thanks to the 5 P's of Conflict lesson, you were able to truly improve the conflict. Without revision, it would have been a boring storm that no one particularly cared about, but once you identified the power struggle between the main character and the storm, the story grew more suspenseful and more exciting to read. Moving forward, you want to keep working on your editing yourself. You like to write a lot, and while that's not necessarily a bad thing, you must consider how writing the *right* words—and fewer of them—can be more effective than writing a redundant, stream-of-consciousness story. You know what I'm sayin'?

Sincerely,

Ms. Hanner