

Name: _____

Period: _____

Suspense Narrative Task

In each of the following three passages, the author creates a vivid setting, narrated via first person POV by an unidentified character. Think about the details the author uses to establish the setting and the character in the prompt. Write an original story about **what happens to the character next**. Be sure to use what you have learned about the setting and the character in the prompt, beginning with your own engaging lead.

Prompt #1:

I finished my schoolwork late that night, as I always did on Fridays. The air was still humid, but comfortable enough that I would not be sweating the whole way to the train station. Camden Street is an odd place at night; the area does not seem to sleep. Even past the time the students are gone and the stores are closed, somewhere in the town, somebody's awake doing something. That's when I noticed him: the man with the camera.

Prompt #2:

The crisp winter air was electric, and it whipped through the bleachers of the rickety old stadium. Our team was winning by two points as the halftime activities unfolded. Concession stands were packed and the crowd was wild with excitement for the last home game of the year. But suddenly, the cheering stopped and a hush came over the crowd; no longer were the bleachers rumbling. I felt a knot tighten in my stomach.

Prompt #3:

I was on the last stretch home, and the orange glow of the porch light welcomed us. My dog stopped and looked up at me, signaling to let him off the leash to run back to the house: a tradition that was almost as old as him. I bent over and unhooked his collar, and with the release of tension, he ran off into the distance. My other dog barked from behind me, and I turned to watch him howl into the distance. I looked around, trying to find the source of his agitation. No cats, no other dogs, no nothing, except the approaching darkness. One by one, the streetlights clicked off, sending a wave of black in our direction.

Over the course of this unit, we will explore the genre of narrative. You will be responsible for creating your own suspense narrative in the style of **realistic fiction**. During this unit, mini lessons will be conducted and you will apply the following:

- *strong leads*
- *characterization*
- *conflict*
- *dialogue*
- *show—don't tell*
- *dead words*
- *fragments & run-ons*
- *sentence combining*
- *compositional risks*

You will be expected to follow the writing process and to meet mini deadlines along the way to ensure that lessons are incorporated and writing is done as a process.

Requirements:

Your narrative must...

- ✓ be properly formatted and 1000-1500 words (3-5 pages).
- ✓ follow a clear and specific plotline from beginning to end.
- ✓ incorporate composition risks throughout your piece.
- ✓ demonstrate mastery of each mini-lesson conducted in class.*

**If you are absent, you are still responsible to get the materials from the mini lesson, and are still required to revise your piece as necessary*

Prewriting

Who?

*Who are ALL of your central **characters**? What are their defining characteristics?*

Where? When?

*What is the time and location—aka, the **setting**—of your story? Include all settings!*

What?

*What is the **conflict** (should be introduced early on) that sets the plot in motion?*

Why?

*Why should someone read this story? What would he/she learn from the **theme**?*

How?

How does the story develop? How do the events of the **plot** ultimately change the main character?



