**Original Short Story Guide**

1. Write an original, imaginative, and fictional short story.
2. 1 – 5 pages (quality over quantity).
3. Write in 3rd person (he, she, they…) and names (Mike, Joey, Sue)
4. Come up with a fictional setting (time and place) and characters.
5. Give some exposition (establish setting, characters, and tone)
6. Get in a plot conflict (usually a choice, problem, crisis) , climax, and conclusion.
7. Write in some dialogue with proper punctuation and indentations.
8. Write with a theme and purpose in mind. For example, your story may revolve around racism, bullying, lying, cheating, stealing, growing up, taking responsibility, dealing with and accepting hardships …
9. Write about what you know, for example, sports, horses, ballet, or religion.
10. Write a rough draft, proofread, edit, and rewrite.

Have fun with the assignment. Be creative. Get into it. Writing is rewarding when you get absorbed in the process.