**NaNoWriMo Project:**

Hooray! You are writing a novel. Let me begin by saying that I am so proud of each of you for taking on this challenge (albeit with some grumbling…). While writing is a process and excellence is something we push and strive for, this process can best be realized by tackling a major project. Likewise, writing, like fitness, requires regular and routine practice. The very act of writing a 30K novel will give you so much valuable experience and will hone your craft of writing, along with your imaginative approach to fiction.

Accordingly, it is fiction that we want to teach. The elements of a novel and the complexity of this literary genre is something that can best be understood through active engagement in the process of writing a novel. In doing so, you will learn more about this form than you ever have and will, if nothing else, gain an appreciation for what novelists endure in crafting their art.

To this end, the bulk of the work for this project is simply QUANTITY. Write, write and write. Make your 30,000 word goal. I guarantee the level of accomplishment and sense of fulfillment at having made it will be so worth it! However, I am going to use this writing occasion to create teachable opportunities to familiarize you with writing issues and novel elements in a workshop type format.

Below is an outlying of the points and how assessment will be determined; also, I have included the dates for these assessment demarcation points.

11/11: This milestone marks the 9K word point or 30% of the novel! Woo Hoo! You are rolling. The word count needs to be updated as of midnight on the 11th. On Tuesday the 12th, you will need to have the novel-in-progress saved to a flash or thumb drive and with you in school (if you emailed to yourself or saved it to a cloud that is fine – point being you need access to your work if called upon). You MAY be randomly selected to “prove” your writing and word count is authentic. (25 pts)

11/22: This milestone marks the 18K word point or 60% of the novel! Holy Cow! You are nearly 2/3 through!! Follow the format for the first check in point and remember to have evidence of your work. (25 pts)

***Note:*** If your check point work falls short, he is the break down in terms of points:

Short by 500 words or less = 20/25

Short by 1000 words to 501 = 15/25

Short by 1500 words to 1001 = 10/25

Short by 1501+ = 0/25

12/02 This marks the conclusion of the novel – YAY! YOU MADE IT!! I am telling you this achievement will mean a lot, and just having written it will improve your writing and language skills. Now, be prepared to validate via flash drive, et. al.

***Special Note:*** I have made the deadline FOR CREDIT longer than the NaNoWriMo contest lasts. If you are seeking to achieve kudos from NaNoWriMo and the voucher for Amazon Publication, etc… then you MUST have authenticated your novel and word count on the <http://ywp.nanowrimo.org> site by the end of the 30th of November.

(50 pts)

Disbursement of Points on 12/02:

30,000 + = 50

28,500 – 29,999 = 40

27,000 – 28,499 = 35

25,000 – 26,999 = 30

23,000 – 24,999 = 25

21,000 – 22,999 = 20

20,000 – 20,999 = 15

Less than 20,000 = 0

**Side Work and NaNoWriMo Related Activities:**

You likely have seen and joined our class site. Good. This is how you will participate in the class forums and how you will officially upload word counts, etc… In addition, to the novel itself, you will need to complete some side work connected to the writing. These will be explained below and in class. The list, dates, and points for these are as follows

**1 – 3 Are REQUIRED of EVERYONE. 4 – 12 see chart at end of document**

1. **Registration and User Name/Info** (November 1 – 8): This logs you into the system and provides me with the information to be able to track your progress and participation. (10 pts)
2. **Novel Information Updated on Website (November 13):** Your user account on the site allows you to input information about your novel. By the end of the 13th, you will need to update this information, which includes, a 1,000 word Excerpt of the novel, a brief summary of the story, the title (of course, you may end up changing it later…)… (10 pts)
3. **Participation in Class Forums (Ongoing):** I want this to be a shared experience; likewise, you need to know that writers form a community or network of fellow writers who support one another, inspire, empathize, etc… The forum on our class page at the NaNoWriMo site enables us to forge this community beyond the classroom. Therefore, I am asking that each of you actively engage the forums. Responding to the topic and/or posts by fellow classmates. Create dialogues and sharing. Be supportive to each other. I won’t give you a minimum number of entries that you ought to log; you decide what your involvement should be. I just ask that you care and get involved. (10 pts)

**\* SEE CHART AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS DOCUMENT FOR #s 4 – 12 DIRECTIONS**

1. **POV & Narrator Scene Change (Nov. 15):** You need to select one scene from the novel ( approx. 1000 words or so), and rewrite this scene (it does NOT have to be included into the novel but can simply be an exercise to fulfill this assignment) by CHANGING Point of View and/or Narrator. For example, if the novel is third person, perhaps you make it first person. If it is first person and told from the POV of the killer, perhaps you render this scene still first person but make it from the POV of the victim… See?

In addition, you will need to compose ONE PARAGRAPH (150 – 250 words) that explains your choice of POV and Narrator in the novel and compares/contrasts it with the exercise you just did in switching it up. (20 pts.)

1. **Alternate Beginning (Nov. 18):** Now that you are well on your way, go back an rewrite the opening sequence of the novel (again, you do NOT need to change the novel itself; this can be just an exercise to fulfill this assignment). The rewrite should be a revision of the first 1,000 words (or so).

In addition, you need to compose ONE PARAGRAPH (150 – 250 words) that explains why you opened the novel in the manner you did and how this change is different and what it would add or how it would alter the novel if you used this opening. (20 pts)

1. **Alternate Ending (Dec. 2):** Just like in the movies, perhaps you cannot decide on the ending for this novel. Write two! This assignment asks you to re-envision the ending of the novel and compose an alternate final 1000 words or so.

In addition, you need to compose ONE PARAGRAPH (150 – 250 words) that explains why you decided to go with the ending you have and how this alternate ending would affect, add, change, ruin, etc… the novel if you decided to plug this in as the conclusion. (20 pts)

1. **Live Reading (Nov. 15 & 22):** We will set aside class time to hear some people read their work – one of thrills of work like this is to hear the author read it. You will want to keep this reading to about 500 – 1000 words, and, hopefully, you can find a scene that would lend itself to a good reading experience. (10 pts)
2. **Cover Mock-Up (Nov. 22):** This will be a creative mock-up of the novel cover. You can create this by hand or digitally. If you decide to publish your completed work, then you can use this for it OR you can do something entirely different. (10 pts)
3. **Movie Poster (Nov. 22):** Consider your novel is going to be made into a movie! Wow, wouldn’t it be cool to actually get the $$$ for selling the rights to this film?! Anyway, this assignment asks you to create a Movie Poster for your novel. This poster should include a tag line that provides a “thesis”/summary of the novel’s theme. The images should represent the novel in some creative way. (10 pts)
4. **Story Board (Nov. 13):** Story boarding is a way of drawing out the scenes of a plot in artistic sketches. It is a creative method for visualizing and outlining a plot. This assignment asks you to create some kind of hand done or digital story board for your plot (at least for the KEY turns and events in your plot).

In addition you will need to compose ONE paragraph (150 – 250 words) explaining your plot choices, specifically discuss the rising action, the climax, and any falling action/denouement that your novel will consist of. (20 pts)

1. **Conflicts (Nov. 15):** A literary narrative – whether drama, short story or novel, is only as strong and as compelling as its conflict(s). Conflict, the ensuing struggles between conflicting elements/characters, etc. and the resolution to these conflicts is what will have readers on the edge of their seats. This assignment asks you to explain and CREATIVELY depict the conflicts of your novel. You may choose the primary conflict between protagonist and antagonist, or you may examine several conflicts including secondary conflicts present in the work… You decide how you wish to do this.

In addition you will need to compose ONE paragraph (150 – 250 words) explaining the role that conflict plays in your novel and the choices you are making pertaining to conflict and how to resolve these. (20 pts)

1. **Setting (November 22):** Where a story is set (time and place) is so important to the novel. I often teach that, in addition to coloring the novel with cultural significance and context, the setting in many ways is like a character. This assignment is to MAKE a map or timeline or both that explains/captures the setting of your novel (in a creative way).

In addition, you will need to compose ONE paragraph (150 – 250 words) that discusses the role of setting in your novel and how the time and place influence the characters, conflicts, actions, etc… (20 pts)

**CHOICES:**

Like I said above, everyone must do numbers 1 – 3. However, with numbers 4 – 12, you will play academic tic-tac-toe. What I mean is below is a tic-tac-toe grid. You must do a sequence of assignments that create a winning tic-tac-toe game (i.e. connect vertically, diagonally or horizontally).

Therefore, the Side Work assignments will comprise 80 total points – 30 for the required #1-3 and an additional 50 points from your #4-12 selections (two 20 pt assignments and one 10 pt assignment).

#6 Alt. Ending

( 20 pts )

#5 Alt. Beginning

( 20 pts )

#4 Alt. POV or Narrator

( 20 pts )

#7 Live Reading

( 10 pts )

#9 Movie Poster

(10 pts)

#8 Cover Mock-Up

( 10 pts )

#12 Mapping Setting

( 20 pts )

#11 Creative Conflicts

( 20 pts )

#10 Story Board

( 20 pts )