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**Submission date:** 28-Apr-2021 06:53AM (UTC-0700)

**Submission ID:** 1572359955

**File name:** e\_are\_different\_elements\_of\_short\_stories\_writing.edited\_1.docx (15.92K)

**Word count:** 583

**Character count:** 2850

Name

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Course

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### **Short Story Course and Readings**

My biggest takeaway from the short story course and readings is that there are different elements of short story writing, which are weaved into a complete story. In addition to that, these different elements are carefully crafted by adhering to the rules of writing to make up a whole item called a short story. Furthermore, the course has taught me how to identify suitable topics for my stories, write, edit and submit my writing. Also, I have learned there are various forms of readers. Some sift through the pages without understanding the contents, whereas others take their time to understand the story they are reading about and the structure and layout of the story. Besides, they also read while paying close attention to the choice of words, language, and the tense used in the story.

Additionally, there are things that I have learned from this course that I did not know previously. For instance, writing short stories is not about just sitting down and putting thoughts and ideas into writing but also preparing my mind and arranging my ideas before embarking on the writing process. In addition, there are writing techniques that can only be understood by taking the course. Furthermore, the course has taught me different aspects of short stories and the correct way of writing the story. I have also learned that short stories must have structure, plot, dialogue characterization, viewpoint, and tense, among other elements that make them a success. On reading, I have learned that reading should be at regular intervals to achieve its purpose. For instance, having a specific time of the day in the morning or evening, I set aside certain hours to

read. Furthermore, it is also important to adhere to a reading routine, which helps progress my reading culture.

To begin with, I have discovered a lot about myself and my writing. For instance, I have learned that the more I write, the more I become better at writing short stories. I never gave myself a chance regarding writing. Besides, I have also learned that I better my writing and myself when I put my heart and soul into my writing. The way I write is an indicator that my confidence has grown. Also, whereas I write the first draft from my heart, I go through the last draft and fix it using my understanding.

Moreover, having undertaken this course, I have changed my way of reading. I used to skim whatever I was reading, but I have adopted a structured approach towards reading. I set a target for myself to read ten pages daily and adhere to this reading schedule. Furthermore, my reading is structured in a manner that I scrutinize the way the story is represented. I also note the use of plot, tense, paragraph setting and structure, the use of present and future tenses, among others.

This course challenged me in different aspects. For instance, I can write short stories confidently, knowing that I am adhering to the universal rules of writing short stories. Also, this class challenged me to improve my grammar and punctuation, the use of correct tenses, sentence structure, and other aspects of conventional writing. Consequently, the course is an eye-opener to anyone who wants to monetize their writing by helping them find ideas, put up their ideas together and submit them to an editor for publishing. More importantly, the class challenged me to become a better reader and writer.

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