
Misunderstood Monsters

Write a personal narrative about a time when you were misunderstood or judged. Use techniques such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines to develop experiences, events and/or characters.

Misunderstood? Judged? What's your story?

The goal for today is to begin to write a paragraph or two about your experience being misunderstood and/or judged. The questions below will (hopefully) help you get started and expand on the ideas you may already have. Discuss the questions with your tutor and together, take notes on your answers. Skip the questions that don't apply to you personally.

- How do you see yourself? How do you wish to be seen?

- How are you different inside than you appear to be on the surface?

- How are stereotypes about your race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexuality, religion, etc, different than how you really are, or how your culture really is?

- How does this experience of being misunderstood inform who you are in the world?

Misunderstood Monsters

Now that you've done some thinking, pick the most important moments or experiences when you've been misunderstood and/or judged. When did they happen? What did your surroundings look / feel / sound like? What were you feeling? Why?

You'll have time to edit this later, and to add detail, re-organize your thoughts, and correct spelling and grammar -- for now, just get it on the page!

Fears and Horrors

Write a personal narrative about a fear you are working to overcome. Use techniques such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines to develop experiences, events and/or characters.

Frightened? Afraid? Creeped Out?

The goal for today is to begin to write a paragraph or two about your experience with a fear that you've had and are working to overcome. The questions below will (hopefully) help you get started and expand on the ideas you may already have. Discuss the questions with your tutor and together, take notes on your answers. Skip the questions that don't apply to you personally.

- What is your fear? What is your relationship to your fear? How did the fear first develop?

- What steps did you take to overcome the fear? What changed in your life?

- What is the central conflict of your story? What series of events build toward a climax? What is the resolution?

Fears and Horrors

Now that you've done some thinking, pick the most important moments or experiences related to your fear(s). When did they happen? What did your surroundings look / feel / sound like? What were you feeling? Why?

You'll have time to edit this later, and to add detail, re-organize your thoughts, and correct spelling and grammar -- for now, just get it on the page!

A Science Experiment Gone Wrong

Write a fictional narrative about a scenario in the future where the growth of science and/or technology have unintended consequences. Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole and build toward a particular tone and outcome (e.g., a sense of mystery, suspense, growth, or resolution).

Are science and technology always helpful? When are they harmful?

The goal for today is to begin to write a paragraph or two about a scientific or technological advancement that has unintended consequences. The questions below will (hopefully) help you get started and expand on the ideas you may already have. Discuss the questions with your tutor and together, take notes on your answers. Skip the questions that don't apply to your idea.

- What aspects of science and/or technology are you curious about? Why?
- Should we fear the power of science and/or technology? Why or why not?
- When can the pursuit of knowledge become dangerous?
- What responsibility do scientists have in relation to their creation/research? What responsibility do inventors have in relation to their technology?

A Science Experiment Gone Wrong

Now that you've done some thinking about your topic, it's time to begin imagining your world. Who are the characters? Who is the protagonist? Antagonist? How does their outlook change from the beginning of the story to the end? When do the events happen? What do the surroundings look / feel / sound like? Why?

After you've written about the questions above, try to summarize your narrative:
Somebody (character) wanted ___ (goal) but ___ (problem) so ___ (resolution).

You'll have time to edit this later, and to add detail, re-organize your thoughts, and correct spelling and grammar -- for now, just get it on the page!

Rewriting the Story

Pick a moment when things went wrong, a mistake was made, or someone did something they regret. Write a letter where you tell someone what they should do and/or what you want them to know with the perspective you have now. Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.

What if you could prevent problems from happening? What would you do/say?

The goal for today is to begin to write about a situation where something went wrong, and what the “alternate reality” could have been. The questions below will (hopefully) help you get started and expand on the ideas you may already have. Discuss the questions with your tutor and together, take notes on your answers. Skip the questions that don’t apply to your idea.

- Identify your moment. Who are you writing to? Is it your past self, or someone else? What were you thinking before, during, and after the action took place? How did feelings change at each stage?
- Do you assign blame to someone or something? Can you say who is at fault, or is it harder to determine?
- How will your letter make things more right/just? Will the outcome of your letter be more right/just for one person than another?
- How does someone’s perspective impact his/her thoughts on whether something was a mistake/regret, or not?

Rewriting the Story

Now that you've done some thinking, pick the most important details related to your moment. When does it happen? What do the surroundings look / feel / sound like? What are the characters feeling? Why?

You'll have time to edit this later, and to add detail, re-organize your thoughts, and correct spelling and grammar -- for now, just get it on the page!