



English I: Writing: Module 1: Lesson 1: Section 3

Generate Ideas and Questions

Graphic Organizer: Organizing a Short Story

Directions: Referring to the graphic organizer earlier in this section, fill out each of the elements below to help you organize your short story. When you are finished, you can see a sample story outline to compare with your own.

Plot:

Beginning:

Middle:

End:



Setting:

Empty text box for setting.

Place:

Empty text box for place.

Time:

Empty text box for time.

Mood:

Empty text box for mood.

Characters:

Large empty text box for characters.

[Click for a sample story outline](#)



Plot:

Dr. Masterson, the man in the picture, has designed an engine that will run on water, but there are serious implications involved with taking his design from concept to reality.

Beginning:

Dr. Masterson and his team are working hard in their lab, and have developed a functioning prototype of an engine that runs on water. They all agree that this is the final product and that they are one step away from mass production.

Middle:

One member of the team, a graduate student named Rebecca Townsend, has done some mathematical calculations that predict that introducing this “water engine” will severely deplete the world’s water supply in ten years. She presents her findings to the development group who are split: one side says, yes let’s do it, we will become famous and rich; the other says no, we have to think about the negative impact this will have on the earth and humanity. The decision whether or not to do it falls squarely on the shoulders of the lead engineer/scientist Dr. Masterson.

End:

The Vice President of the United States, various heads of aviation and auto industries, the head of research at MIT, and all of Dr. Masterson’s team, including his graduate assistant Rebecca Townsend meet in the board room at MIT. The air is full of excitement but also apprehension for no one really knows what Dr. Masterson’s decision will be. After the introductions are made, Dr. Masterson clears his throat, thanks his colleagues, and agrees to go ahead with putting the water engine into production. His reason being that although Rebecca’s concerns about depleting the water supply are valid, the need for cleaner running engines outweighs that. He also did some studying on the ecological impact of the water engines and predicted that by removing so much carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, the normal weather patterns will return and that our water reservoirs will refill over time.

Setting:

Boston, Massachusetts

Place:

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Time:

In the present

Mood:

The story begins with an air of excitement and then the mood changes to uncertainty and moral conflict. A mood of finality is reached at the end of the story when Dr. Masterson announces his decision.

Characters:

Dr. Masterson, Rebecca Townsend, the research team at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.