**Creative writing: analyzing your own creative piece**

Read your creative that you composed in class. Don’t worry about whether it’s ‘good’ or ‘bad.’ Just read it carefully then answer these questions about it. Answer each question briefly, in just a few words.

Does your story have a beginning, a middle and an end? (This is what we call ‘structure.’)

What happens at the beginning?

What happens in the middle?

What happens at the end?

(If you don’t have an ending yet, try making one up now. Keep it simple.)

* The beginning, middle and end need to all be different. Just doing this will boost your marks.

Is there a good mixture of adjectives and adverbs? Don’t go overboard; be simple and clear.

Is there at least one ‘evocative image’ (a piece of description that makes the reader feel something)?

Is there a mystery, question or problem at the beginning that gets answered later on? Write down what it is.

Have you used any literary techniques, such as:

* The rule of threes
* Foreshadowing
* Minoring
* Symbolism, simile, metaphor and motif

Including any kind of literary technique, however basic, will improve your mark.

Have you used description to tell us about the characters? Show what a character is like by actions and dialogue instead of ‘telling’ us what they’re like or how they feel. Ask: what would he/she do or say in that situation?

Have you mixed up short and long sentences? A trick used by professional authors is to start a paragraph with a short sentence, use longer sentences in the middle, then finish the paragraph with a final short sentence. It reads better.

(Just like this paragraph… see what I did there?)

What is your story’s thesis about Discovery (or Identity, or Power, or whatever your Area of Study is) – what does it say? Summarize your thesis.

Having a clear thesis to your story, just like in an essay, will greatly boost your marks. Often the thesis, or central idea, isn’t clear to us until we’ve actually written a draft.

Most important of all – does your story make sense? Try to tell the story as simply and clearly as possible. Keep asking: what happens next? How clearly can I explain it? Just doing this will make you a ‘better’ writer.