



IDAHO WRITERS GUILD SCORE SHEET: SHORT STORY

The standards submissions

	0/1	2	3	4	5
Grammar/Punctuation/Verb Tense	Major grammar and punctuation errors throughout. Several verb tense shifts. Reader had difficulty focusing on the submission due to the errors.	Some grammatical and punctuation errors that detracted from the quality of the submission. Portions of submission switched verb tense.	Acceptable use of grammar and punctuation. Still occasionally misused both grammar and punctuation. Infrequent switches in verb tense.	Virtually no errors throughout submission. Smooth reading, errors are not distracting to the average reader. Minimal verb tense mistakes.	Excellent use of grammar and punctuation throughout the submission. No verb tense switches.
Use Of Point Of View	Frequent head hopping and inconsistent use of point of view that distracts and confuses the reader.	Some head hopping and poor use of point of view that detracted from the quality of the submission.	Acceptable use of point of view. While a few errors were present, they are not overly distracting to the reader.	Virtually no errors in using point of view. No dramatic head hops or unintended switches in point of view.	Consistent use of point of view throughout the submission with no head hopping or unintentional shifts in point of view.
Dialogue	Unnatural dialogue that is robotic, dull, wooden, or otherwise distracting to the reader. Overuse of dialect and/or foreign language and unfamiliar idioms. Dialogue detracted from submission and made for a difficult read.	Dialogue that lacked dynamics affected the submission's overall quality, included unnatural sounds, and dialect. Dialogue upset suspension of disbelief.	Acceptable use of dialogue that is natural with few instances of bland writing.	Dialogue had a natural flow, smooth back and forth between characters, was used to portray character, and enhance the story. Minimal stilted exchanges present.	Masterful use of dialogue to enhance story quality, add to character, and advance the plot.

Character	Character(s) are bland and uninteresting. Limited to no depth or growth present. Character was unlikeable with no redeeming qualities in sight.	Character(s) are inconsistent or incomplete.	Character(s) are bland but showed promise of growth and an interesting arc.	Good use of character(s) throughout the piece. Solid understanding of character building and growth to draw a reader in.	Character(s) are captivating, fully developed, and hook the reader into the story.
Plot	Absence of plot. No clear story arc. Nothing present to move character/reader forward. No conflict present.	The plot is incomplete or missing key elements, and therefore the story feels unfinished or fractured, and does not satisfy the reader.	The plot is complete, but lacks originality and creativity.	The plot has some originality and creative elements but still lacks either structure or more advanced elements that would improve the submission.	A well-crafted and complete plot that is developed, original, and creative.
Description/Setting	Setting details are missing or incomplete, or descriptions are flat and unimaginative. The reader is not drawn into the setting of the submission at all.	Setting details are sparse and unimaginative, making it hard for the reader to develop a sense of the place where the story happens.	Setting details are present but lack depth, continuity, or sensory detail. The reader is not fully immersed in the setting of the story.	The setting adds depth to the story and provides a good backdrop, but it is not integral to the story and does not move the plot forward or help with character development.	The setting is an integral part of the story, character arc, and/or plot. It is well developed, described in detail, including all of the senses, and adds richness, depth, and value to the submission.
Originality/Creativity	Lacks originality or creativity and can even be described as boring or poorly written.	Shows some creativity but lacks the conflict or character motivations to make a good story. May feel like a retelling or "tired" story trope or plot.	Shows an acceptable level of creativity but does not feel inspired or exceptional. Can be described as a "good" story idea.	Is creative and engaging but could show more originality in plot, characters, setting, conflict, and/or motivation. Is well thought out, but could be improved.	A supremely creative and original idea and story that remains original throughout in twists, conflicts, motivations, plot points, characters, events, and settings. Defined as excellent

storytelling.

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