

Name:		School / University:	
Age:		Grade Just Completed:	
Nationality:		Degree Just Completed:	

Do you enjoy reading? If so, what's your favorite book?

Do you enjoy writing? If so, what do you like to write about? (e.g. the news, fictional stories, political essays, religious thought, daily journal or diary, self-help and motivation, etc.)

Can you think of any story you have heard or read which inspired you or left a strong impact?

Use **ONE** of the following options as inspiration to write a short piece. Do not feel compelled to adhere to it entirely. Instead, you may use the spirit of the scene as a prompt to write a piece that you enjoy writing. Please do not write in bullet point format or as if it's a question-answer session. Try as much as you can to make your writing flow the same way a story would.

Writing Instructions:

- Minimum number of words is 500. There is no maximum. Write as much as you feel necessary to complete your piece. Bear in mind, however, that quality is far more important than quantity.
- Reread your own work and edit it before submitting it. Use spelling & grammar check.
- Submit your piece on a separate piece of paper and use black Times New Roman, size-12 font.
- Please number your pages.

Writing Prompts:

1. A man is seated on a tree branch holding on to dear life. On the ground are four men with pistols pointed at him.

Why was he there to begin with? How does he react? Write the scene or series of scenes that happen before or after this one.

2. Noura's very excited best friend gives her a gift. Noura opens the gift. She hates it.

What is the gift? Why does she hate it? What gift was Noura expecting to get? How does Noura react? Why did her best friend – who's supposed to know her so well – get her this gift?

3. After his parent's divorce, Hamad is considered the man of the house. That is hard, especially since his sister, Fadwa, won't speak to him anymore. Not since that day.

Does Hamad want to be the "man of the house"? Why won't Fadwa speak to him? What caused the divorce?

4. Sara is in love with a student attending the same college. She wants to marry him but he doesn't know she exists. Her friends convince her that if she gets a nose job, she will be able to get his attention. Sara's mother completely disapproves.

Why do Sara's friends think she needs a nose job? Will Sara get the money for a nose job elsewhere? Will Sara give up on the nose job and try to get his attention another way?

5. Ahmed lives in a country where a vicious dictator rules. He lost his job and his only son has not had a full meal in three weeks. With a face full of tears, his wife offers to pay the bills by joining the Death Brigade. This revolutionary group has promised to give her family a million dollars if she successfully completes a suicide mission targeting the ruler.

Does Ahmed let his wife do this? If not, how will he help his family?

Writing Tips:

- Economize in your writing – don't say something twice when you only need to say it once. Get the point across and move on.
- When you first start writing, try to avoid self-editing. Keep writing and don't correct until the end. This will help unblock your creative juices.
- Do not try to complete your piece in one single session. Work on a first draft and then take another stab at it some time later. This will allow your thoughts to simmer. If you think of it in terms of cooking, oftentimes a dish will taste a lot better when cooked for a long time on low heat. Of course this will also mean that you cannot procrastinate. You need to start early so you have enough time to do a first, second and maybe even a third draft of the same piece.
- While you're writing, please think about the desires and weaknesses of the protagonist. What does he/she really want more than anything else? What's stopping him/her from getting it? How is he/she going to overcome that obstacle? For example, in the classic children's fairytale, *Cinderella*, the **protagonist** is Cinderella. Her **main desire** is to go to the ball. Her **weakness** is that she cannot fight her evil stepmother and stepsisters. She **overcomes it** when the fairy godmother transforms her for the evening and that ultimately leads to her marrying the prince. (Note: This particular story is intended for children and is therefore rather simplistic. The story that you write should target a more mature audience.)