

Show! Don't Tell!

Creating Your Character Sketch

ASSIGNMENT: Using the descriptions of the different types of heroes in your textbook, write a character sketch about your own epic, romantic, or tragic hero. The short sketch should be one to two pages in length, typed in MLA format. Use these guidelines when writing your sketch:

1. Use a significant event in this character's life as a springboard for description (a time when he proves his "hero-status.")
2. Show the character speaking and acting
3. Provide a physical description
4. Reveal the character's thoughts
5. Reveal what others think about your character
6. Have your character comment directly about himself or others (his attitude)
7. Provide *SPECIFIC, CONCRETE* details by using words and phrases which appeal to the senses (avoid "to be" verbs and linking verbs—instead of "Her long hair is blond" say "Her long blond hair cascades over slim, rounded shoulders.")
8. Be clear in revealing which type of character he or she is. Be sure to include the characteristics typical of the epic, romantic, or tragic hero
9. Be thorough, be creative, and be appropriate