

# 10 Points to Consider When Writing Creatively - SPC English Resources

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**10 Points for Creative Writing (for secondary pupils) by Alyson Morris, Course Director, English and Creative Writing, Coventry University**

**10 points to consider when writing creatively**

1. Think about your readers. Who are they and what sort of things will interest them.
2. Think about your opening paragraph. Is it gripping; will it make readers want to continue reading. Raise questions that require answers.
3. Think about your ending. Leave readers remembering your work. Don't leave unanswered questions. Be careful with cliff-hangers, the majority of readers want an ending. It's all very well leaving readers to think for themselves, but try and do that during the piece, not at the end.
4. After finishing your first draft, look for anything that might represent something else (symbolism/metaphor). Think: *how can I make good use of these?* Visual imagery is important for readers, but don't overdo similes.
5. Use short or very short sentences here. It gives readers a breathing space to think about the story. Use a range of sentence structures. Writing is a craft, make it rhythmic. Read your work aloud.
6. Show don't tell, but a bit of telling is fine – it's up to the writer to determine what to tell and what to show, but remember this quote from Chekhov, 'Don't tell me the moon is shining; show me the glint of light on broken glass'.
7. Re-write any familiar phrases. Avoid clichés *at all costs!*
8. Ensure you don't underdo or overdo punctuation. Learn the rules.
9. Write with a good thesaurus next to you, but avoid pretentious diction.
10. Never edit your work more than three times or you'll lose sight of your meaning, rawness and originality. Leave time between edits, e.g. a week or more. And always check your work carefully - never be your only proof-reader. When proofing your work and have to re-read a sentence, re-write it or delete it. On the final check, read for entertainment, then read for errors.