

Code List for Short Stories Based on Research¹

1. Introductory Paragraph:

- Highlight in yellow the Topic Sentence.
- Draw a box around the **topic** in the Topic Sentence.
- Write an “S” next to each setting statement or a “C” next to each character statement.
- Underline the Beginning Event Statement (or Thesis Statement).
- If any of the above items is weak or missing, fix it.
- Correct any capitalization, appearance, punctuation, spelling, word-usage errors, or sentence structure errors. If you don’t know how to correct it, ASK!

2. Body Paragraphs (complete for Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action Paragraphs)

- Highlight in yellow the Topic/Transition Sentence(s). (This should include your transition.)
- Circle the transition word, phrase, or clause in the Topic/Transition Sentence.
- Draw a box around the **topic** in the Topic/Transition Sentence.
- Underline the **character name** in the Topic/Transition Sentence.
- Put a star next to the initial event in the Topic/Transition Sentence.
- Write a “P” next to the **problem** that has been introduced, a “C” next to the **crisis**, a “D” next to the **decision**, and an “S” next to the **solution** for the problem.
- Number the Lead-off Detail Sentences in each Body Paragraph. (You should have at least three that introduce a new detail that supports the purpose of the paragraph.)
- Write an “F” next to each Follow-up Detail Sentence that backs up the Lead-off Sentence.
- Write an “R” next to any sentence that contains information you learned through research.
- Record the TOTAL number of sentences in each paragraph next to it. You should have a minimum of 7 sentences in each paragraph.
- If any of the above items is weak or missing, fix it.
- Correct any capitalization, appearance, punctuation, spelling, word-usage, or sentence structure errors. If you don’t know how to correct it, ASK!

3. Concluding Paragraph:

- Highlight in yellow the Concluding Transition Sentence.
- Circle the Concluding Transition (either a word, clause, or phrase).
- Draw a box around the **topic** in the Concluding Transition Sentence.
- Underline the character name in the Concluding Transition Sentence.
- Write an “E” next to each **ending** event.
- Highlight in yellow the Clincher Sentence.
- Underline the **message** of the story.
- If any of the above items is weak or missing, fix it.
- Correct any capitalization, appearance, punctuation, spelling, word-usage, or sentence structure errors. If you don’t know how to correct it, ASK!

4. Entire Essay:

- Highlight a compound sentence in pink. Write the formula at the beginning of the sentence.
- Highlight a complex sentence in green. Write the formula at the beginning of the sentence.
- Highlight a compound-complex sentence in blue. Write the formula at the beginning of the sentence.
- Make sure you have a creative, interesting title.
- Draw a star by 5 different words that demonstrate an appropriate vocabulary for your grade.
- Circle and replace the following forbidden words/phrases: *I/we* (except in personal experience), *you*, *good*, *bad*, *a lot*, *stuff*, *things*, *cool*, *there are*.

¹ This list was adapted from a general list created by Cyndi Gibson, Certified SIM Professional Developer.