

## 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Writing Prompts & Deadlines for Spring Semester

**1. Stuck.** Describe a time when you found yourself in a tight spot. Tell us how you got there and what you did to get out of it. Or write a story about someone who finds themselves in a difficult situation. *Alternate:* **India.** What images come to mind? Write them down and tell us where those images come from? Do you think the images are accurate? **Deadline: Jan. 22**

**2. Stress.** What stresses you out? How do you deal with stress? Write about a time when you have felt stressed out, or create a story in which the characters have to deal with a stressful situation. *Alternate:* **My story.** Pick a memorable moment from your life. Something that happened, something you did, something you witnessed. Tell a story about it that will tell us about you. 400 words, no real names, please. Try to focus on something very specific, give us detail. **Deadline Jan. 29**

**3. Faking it.** Admit it, you've had to pull the wool over someone's eyes when trapped at an unexpected moment. Write about it. *Alternate:* **Four.** Write about the number four. Could be the time on the clock, the number of people or anything.... Use the number story, poem or play. **Deadline: Feb. 5**

**4. Cold.** Hate it? Love it? Want to move to Florida? Write about an experience you have had with cold. *Alternate:* **Rules.** What's the silliest or most pointless rule you've ever encountered? Tell a story about it and tell how you got around the rule or got the rule changed. **Deadline: Feb. 12**

**5. Elevator.** You are in an elevator. The door opens and in walks an annoying type of person. Suddenly the elevator stops between floors...tell us what happens. (No real people, please!) *Alternate:* **Peeves.** What is your number one pet peeve? Or what are your top 10 peeves? **Deadline Feb. 19**



**6. Blue.** "It was the most brilliant color blue I'd ever seen..." Work that phrase into a poem or a story. *Alternate:* **Photo Prompt** Write a story about this photo, taken by Esther Bubley for the OWI, April 1943. *This photo was originally in black and white.* (Click [http://www.youngwritersproject.org/files/images/Bubley-woman\\_1.jpg](http://www.youngwritersproject.org/files/images/Bubley-woman_1.jpg) for link to download.) **Deadline: Feb. 26**

**7. Avoidance.** What do you avoid? What do you do to avoid doing it? Tell a story about a time when you avoided something. Make it funny. *Alternate:* **Intolerance.** In your life have you seen intolerance or prejudice or discrimination? Have you seen it in more than way? Is there intolerance towards students who look different or dress differently? Or who aren't in a popular group? Write about intolerance; tell a story about your own experience or observation. **Deadline: Mar. 5**

**March 8<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>:** Pick a story to revise and make into a final copy. Include at least 2 rough drafts and the final copy with everything you turn into Ms. Sunderman. You will receive a handout in class with more information and expectations. **Due: March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**8. Pocket.** You have found something strange in your pocket. Describe it to someone who has no sight. Tell the story of how it got there. *Alternate: My Town.* Write about your town or city. Tell us one story or one anecdote that reveals something about your community -- why you like it (or don't), what it stands for, what it's known for. You can tell a historical story. You can base it on an interview. **Deadline: Apr. 1<sup>st</sup>**

**9. Bullying.** Have you been the recipient? What did it do to you? Have you ever bullied anyone? Why? *Alternate: Cell phones.* Make the case that cell phones should be allowed or should not be allowed in school. **Deadline: Apr. 9**

**10. Farming.** Do you farm? Have you ever worked on a farm? Visited one? Write about it. Do you know a farmer? Talk to her or him and tell their story. Try not to romanticize. Tell a story that describes the reality of farming today. **Deadline: April 16**

**11. Rain.** Tell us a story about your best or worst experience in the rain. *Alternate: Phobias.* Heights, small spaces, thunderstorms, spiders. Do you have a phobia? How do you deal with it? **Deadline: Apr. 23**

**12. Dreams.** Nightmares, happy dreams, daydreams. Write about a dream you have had. Or, write about your dreams for the future. *Alternate: Poetry.* Write an ode, limerick or a shaped poem. **Deadline: May 7**

**13. Success.** At last! Write about a time you succeeded at something you worked really hard on. *Alternate: Memorial Day.* What does this holiday mean to you? Do you do anything special, or do you just sleep in? **Deadline: May 14**