

## Part II – Writing to Speculate

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### The Speculative Prompt

In this section, you will be given a short paragraph describing a particular situation. You will then be asked to write a story about that situation. Use your imagination to write a short piece of fiction.

Your story will contain the following main elements.

- **Setting** – the time and location in which the story takes place.
- **Plot** – the sequence of events in the story. The plot should include an introduction, a climax and an ending.
- **Conflict** – the problem or struggle facing the main character of the story. If the story has a moral, that can help you to get a higher score.
- **Characters** – the people, animals or things the story is about. Give the characters names and a personality to make the story more exciting. Use dialogue and vivid descriptions to let the characters come alive.
- **Point of view** – a story can be told from the first person or third person point of view.

Let's look at the following speculative writing prompt.

Imagine you are hiking in a state park that has mountain trails, a lake, a river and wild animals.

Write a story about an adventure that takes place in this state park.

This prompt gives you the setting for your story: a state park. It also tells you one of the characters in the story: you. When you write your response, you need to use your imagination to create the other elements of the story.

There are many possible conflicts that can fit the given situation: you could get lost while hiking, you could come across an injured animal and rescue it; you could lose your cell phone and have to backtrack to find it; you can discover that a recent storm has washed out one of the trails.

Be sure your plot introduces and develops the conflict, and be sure you resolve the conflict at the end of the story.

Since you are a character in the story, it would be easier to tell the story in the first person point of view.