Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**MY FIRST DRAFT Planning Notes**

**Know My Character**

What does your main character WANT? NEED? Love? Hate? Fear?

How will the character change and grow?

**Setting**: Invite your audience into the setting.

Where / when / under what condition does the story take place?

Use sensory details like smell and sound to evoke strong memories.

**Obstacles and Drama**

Who and/ or what gets in the way of the character getting their goal / needs / wants? The main character should pursue something that matters.

Identify at least 3 obstacles the main character will encounter. Obstacles can be *internal* (feelings within) or *external* (outside forces). The last challenge places the character against his/her WORST fear!

Increase the STAKES adds increased drama.

* There should be no easy solution to the problem(s) and the main character needs to make a clear decision.
* The choice may dig a bigger hole for the protagonist, but the story must continue forward
* The character must live with the “consequences” of the decision.
* Each decision causes the next action and reaction.

Reflect on the ENDING of your story. Change can be positive or negative. Use these sentence stems to help you identify your transformation, realization, or revelation. (from the book Storyworthy by Matthew Dicks)

Transformation I once was \_\_\_\_\_\_ but now I’m \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Realization I once thought \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but now I think \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Revelation I once felt \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but now I feel \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Then, use the END to find your starting place. Flip it 180 and find the opposite.

My Beginning

Retell your story outloud to a partner or use a recording app. Set your timer for 6 minutes.

1st retelling Think about your audience and tell the story from beginning to end.

2nd retelling Invite your audience into the setting, include sound/smell sensory details. Use a “director’s eye” to visualize the scene and start with action.

3rd retelling Set your timer for shorter time (4 minutes) and retell the whole story. Pay attention to the important points you kept.

After time is up, immediately write down notes that you remember!

You should be off to a great start!