**Show! Don’t Tell!**

**Creating Your Character Sketch**

ASSIGNMENT: Using the descriptions of the different types of heroes, write a character sketch about your own epic, romantic, or tragic hero. The short sketch should be NO MORE THAN TWO PAGES in length, typed in MLA format. Use these guidelines when writing your sketch:

1. Use a significant event in this character’s life as a springboard for description (a time when he proves his “hero-status.”)
2. Show the character speaking and acting
3. Provide a physical description
4. Reveal the character’s thoughts
5. Reveal what others think about your character
6. Provide SPECIFIC, CONCRETE details by using words and phrases which appeal to the senses (avoid “to be” verbs and linking verbs--instead of “Her hair is long and blond” say “Her long blond hair cascades over slim, rounded shoulders.”)
7. Be clear in revealing which type of character he or she is by including the characteristics typical of the epic, romantic, or tragic hero
8. Be consistent in your verb tense. Choose a tense (past or present, usually) and stick with it. Don’t switch for no reason.
9. Be thorough, be creative, and be appropriate

Character Sketch Rubric

Character \_\_\_\_\_\_/30

-character name is original and clever

-character is well-understood and clearly defined

-character’s thoughts about himself and his situation are clearly presented

-additional characters reveal information about the hero

Physical Description \_\_\_\_\_\_/15

-description is clear

-specific, concrete details are used

Story Line \_\_\_\_\_\_/20

-author has chosen an appropriate event to display the character’s heroic qualities

-event is appropriate to the assignment

General Sketch Quality \_\_\_\_\_\_/15

-sketch is creative

-sketch reflects the characteristics of the chosen heroic category

-finished product feels complete but does not drag on unnecessarily

Mechanics \_\_\_\_\_\_/10

-sketch is in MLA format

-sketch is well-organized

-sketch has been proofread and is free from grammatical errors

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_\_/90