



# ELA Virtual Learning

# **Creative Writing**

May 5, 2020



## Creative Writing

### Lesson: Tues., May 5

**Objective/Learning Target:** Students will begin to learn and practice the process of writing for a television show.



## Creative Writing

**Warm-up:** Watch [this video](#) from the Tina Fey-produced television show, *30 Rock*. As you watch, record what you think makes the scene work (or, as the case may be, what you think doesn't work). You may wish to think back about previous lessons on character/motivation, conflict, and tension!



## Creative Writing

**Lesson:** Yesterday, we read this [article](#) about TV staff positions and responsibilities. In the video we just viewed, which takes place in a writer's room, many of those positions are depicted--to comedic effect, of course.

In [this article](#), however, executive producer Robert Carlock suggests that the depiction is really not far from reality. Read the article before continuing to the next slide.



## Creative Writing

**Lesson:** Long hours and “bursts” of writing where one person does the bulk of the work is often the norm. In fact, in this video, longtime [SNL writer Paula Pell](#) (who also worked on *30 Rock*) suggests that it’s really a younger person’s profession. Both Carlock and Pell comment on the complexities of being a TV writer and many of the issues that come with writing in a politically charged landscape. Read the article and watch the video before moving on!



## Creative Writing

**Practice:** To some extent, Pell and Carlock discuss writing about various “types” of characters. In your journal or anywhere that’s handy, record some ideas of character types you think would be fun to write. What stereotypical traits could you play up on for comedic effect, and what are some that you could “subvert” to make the character more complex (or surprising and funny)? Make a list of 4-5 character types and see what you come up with!

## Creative Writing

### Model:

- The “jock” student-athlete
  - always wears letter jacket with a gazillion medals
  - walks around with arms out to the side
    - (my friends and I called this “ILS” in high school, or Imaginary Lat Syndrome)
  - maybe he plays the oboe at home in a family quarter, which he keeps a secret from his friends



## Creative Writing

**Additional Practice:** Could these characters exist in the same world/universe? Brainstorm for several minutes about what the interactions between these characters might look like. Where would scenes with them take place? Could this be the main location for a show/sitcom?





## Creative Writing

### **Additional Practice/Resources:**

[How to Become a Television Comedy Writer](#)