

# Six-Word Story

“For Sale: Baby shoes. Never worn.”

According to [rumors](#), famous author and journalist Ernest Hemingway went to lunch at the Algonquin, bet a table full of writers he could write a short story in just six words. His companions wagered \$10 each to put Hemingway to the test.

Although likely myth, it is a well-written short story. It has essentials – beginning, middle and end, plus tugs on the heart, offers details, and peaks interest.

The tale of Hemingway’s ‘baby shoes’ makes one think and inspires six-word stories everywhere.

**Here's a few:**

- <https://www.npr.org/2008/02/07/18768430/six-word-memoirs-life-stories-distilled> (Links to an external site.)
- <http://www.sixwordstories.net/category/site-news/#sidebar> (Links to an external site.)
- [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/six-word-story\\_n\\_5332833?guccounter=1&guce\\_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2x1LmNvbS8&guce\\_referrer\\_sig=AQAAABaShGD1joepSYyR6H1ScGnTjqKud74De\\_FspYvtthLBRDzbWvUuCkkyKPoMw9DmK1UpDvkKhgPcpSAf81nGJPQIHL9A2X93vG3FCSltqnishr1LSHb6mBDkRUA5OIxWLYcFoY3XvLQ4mfiFUYciR1MmRGKYDWR1vMuRFncf8\\_5Y](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/six-word-story_n_5332833?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2x1LmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAABaShGD1joepSYyR6H1ScGnTjqKud74De_FspYvtthLBRDzbWvUuCkkyKPoMw9DmK1UpDvkKhgPcpSAf81nGJPQIHL9A2X93vG3FCSltqnishr1LSHb6mBDkRUA5OIxWLYcFoY3XvLQ4mfiFUYciR1MmRGKYDWR1vMuRFncf8_5Y) (Links to an external site.)

I feel like these last couple of months have been an emotional time for most of us. Let's do one last piece of writing together and maybe express some of those complicated emotions. Or document the world from our perspective.

**Learning Goal:** I can express myself clearly and concisely. Brevity is key in journalism.

The key to the six-word story, statement, or exclamation is finding the perfect six words to communicate your point.

**Potential topics:**

- A story about someone or something you love
- A story about a good memory
- A story about something that makes you mad
- A story about something that gives you anxiety
- A story about something that gives you hope
- A story about your someone’s best quality
- Something you wish people knew about you

**Instructions:**

1. Write your six-word story.
2. Submit it as text reply to this Canvas assignment or as a Word doc.

# Six-Word Design

Visuals draw in readers to stories, be they photos with a 300-word story or the cover of novels, artwork helps bring readers to your text.

Here are some student examples of illustrations for six-word stories: <https://www.slideshare.net/confinnegan/creative-writing-six-word-stories> (Links to an external site.)

Let's illustrate your story.

**Learning Goal:** I can illustrate or use design to help tell my six-word story.

## Instructions:

1. Think about your six-word story.
2. Think about how color, font choices, photos vs. artwork could tell that tone of story.
  1. What will enhance the message in your story? Happy, sad, angry, etc?
3. You may use either InDesign or [www.Canva.com](https://www.canva.com) (Links to an external site.) to create your design.
  1. If you choose InDesign, use your own photo.
    1. Remember to File > Export > PDF
  2. If you choose Canva, set up a free account.
    1. Log in and choose any format for your design.
    2. Please choose artwork that is free (no \$ or crown logo). You do not need to spend any money with this online vendor to complete this homework. There's plenty of free options.
    3. You can also use the templates, but upload your own artwork, or photos you found online.
    4. Download your piece as a .png or .pdf file.
4. When you turn this assignment in, let me know if it's ok to publish your piece in a student publication. I have a feeling these are going to be awesome and something to share with readers.

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This is my story of the first time I visited our classroom during quarantine. I used Canva for the design template.:



