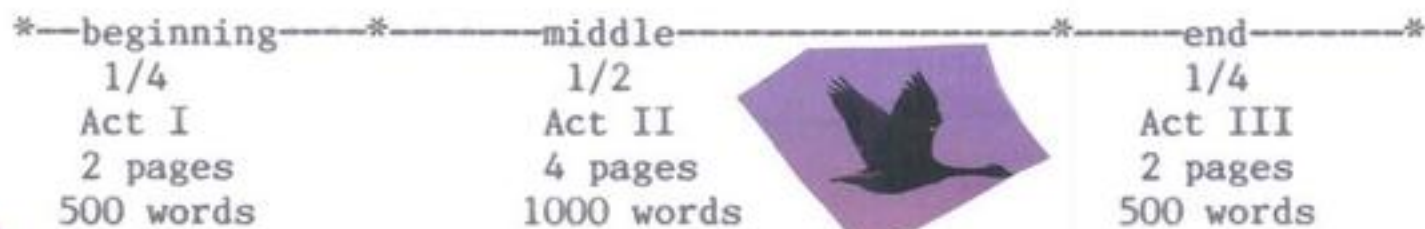


To Eleanor_Anne:

I like your use of "Grr," it's cute.
 15! Wow. Did you have a good birthday?
 It's great that you're writing stories; and yes, I care.
 Skipping the middle when writing a short story isn't bad,
 in fact, it's pretty common. It's why there's so many books
 covering "Beginnings, Middles, and Ends." Different people
 struggle with different parts, the middle being the most common
 since it's the bulk of the story. Here's a tip:

Continue to do as you said, if that's how it works for you:
 skip and write your ending, and then work on the middle;
 just keep in mind that your beginning and end should take
 up one quarter (each) of the story—leaving half for the
 middle.



This is not an exact science, just a guide; and while my
 example uses only a 2000 word/8 page story, you can apply
 this to any writing—even a 500 page novel!

Every major writer relies on structure, even someone like
 Jeffrey Eugenides can be found using it--because it makes sense
 to readers on a conscious and subconscious level. The three
 act structure may seem, to some, cliché; but it is a tried and
 true form that we see all around us, especially in books and
 screenplays.

"I never set out to write any one thing," Andre Dubus III,
 told the magazine Poets & Writers (Nov/Dec 2013, p.55-56),
 "I just set out to write daily and it becomes what it becomes."

It's not--creative--to stay in a box, so just write, and
 if that path takes you outside the comfort of the boxes made
 by others--you're treading artistic waters. Who knows, maybe
 it'll be your method that renders all others *retardataire*,
 and people will one day be interviewing you to ask, "How did
 you write this?" And you'll be like, "Well, it's really quite
 simple, you just start at the end, and write backwards!"

Write what you need for now to appease those in control
 of your grades, and therefore your future; just remember...
 when writing your own personal writing, all that counts is the
 final and polished draft. Elizabeth Gilbert,
 author of the memoir, "Eat, Pray, Love," writes
 snippets of dialogue and scenes on index cards,
 to later assemble into a coherent novel; while
 some writers create detailed outlines, page for
 page; and others just sit down and write. We
 all have our ways--and yours will be yours.

Try to find: "Writing Great Short Stories,"
 by Margaret Lucke. It'll help, a lot.

