6 Navy’s Advice for Writing an AWESOME Story (Speculative Prompt) on the NJ ASK

* Focus on your writing. Don’t be nervous about the time.
* Take a few minutes to plan your story before you write.
* Have a clear beginning, middle, and end, as well as a problem and solution.
* Have a simple but realistic plot.
* Describe the setting of each scene.
* Change the setting to reflect the mood.
* Describe what characters look like and their personalities through action and dialogue.
* Describe characters’ motivations: what makes them do the things they do.
* Include characters’ inner thoughts.
* Make clear transitions between scenes.
* Build tension by putting characters into an argument or introducing another conflict.
* Write long in scenes by describing actions slowly and what characters see.
* Don’t rush to get to the ending. Develop all scenes equally.
* Think like the character as you write.
* Try to be creative and take risks … but don’t be silly!
* Try to make a twist at the end.
* Consider word choice. Use those “million dollar words.”
* Leave at least 5 minutes at the end to edit.
* When you finish, keep re-reading your story to revise and edit.
* Check for errors in end punctuation.
* Check for spelling errors. Check words you often misspell. Check that you spelled words in the prompt correctly.
* Make sure characters’ names are capitalized.