



Creative Nonfiction

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What is Creative Nonfiction?

- Creative nonfiction is writing that is 100 percent factual and based squarely in the real, true, known world.
- Creative nonfiction relies heavily on the techniques of fiction writing: scene making, or letting the reader see the story, instead of being told about it. But instead of invented material, everything in creative nonfiction is absolutely true.
- As with fiction, creative nonfiction can be almost any length, from a paragraph-long micro-essay to a book.

Subcategory: Literary Essay

- In a literary essay, you research a topic or write about another person, not yourself.
- Researched work (sometimes called new journalism) combines facts and imagination to create scenes.

Lyric essays are a subgenre of creative nonfiction. Composed more the way poetry is composed, using sections of highly imagistic, detailed prose and relying on structures such as braid or collage, lyric essays tend to have less plot, less story, and highly resonant language.

Subcategory: Memoir

- In memoir, you tell a story from your own life in order to help the reader see his or her own life in a new, richer way.
- The assertions made in the work are understood to be factual.

In both forms (Literary essay and Memoir), you use images, scenes, metaphors, dialogue, and pattern