

Assignment 1: Creative Writing

What Creative Writing is –

Creative writing is essentially imaginative. It most often takes the form of drama, fiction, or poetry (including songs). But given that imaginative reach, along with the language tools and techniques needed to realize it, any form of writing can become creative. One might call this type of writing full-blooded – nourished, as it must be, with an abundance of heart.

How to Write Creatively –

In this type of writing, following a format can cramp a writer's style. At the bottom, there is no way one can tell another person how to write creatively. Probably no teacher can do much more than inspire the student with a quality set of rhetorical tools, an open atmosphere, a love of language, and a sense of possibility, then let the newborn beast have its head and hope for the best.

The natural element of creative writing is freedom. This is the place to let go, to let the student be. Of course that does not mean that the teacher abandons any new writer to a miasma of self-indulgence. Rather, the student should be guided and encouraged through the certain failures, through try after try and endless errors and those very few quiet triumphs, until he or she begins to realize that dreams can indeed come alive, take shape and grow, stand full and real as any creature of bone, flesh, blood.

Here again is where we call up every writing mode and device we can think of – not only to modes touched upon in this writing, but other more literary devices as well. We bring to bear the full force of metaphor, alliteration, repetition, rhyme, meter and so on – full with the understanding that nothing is sacred if it holds the student back from creative expressions. It can be instructive and fun simply to experiment with such devices. But in the end they will probably be used less for their own sake than because they are evoked, often mysteriously, called up out of the material itself, whatever it may be.

So it is indeed clear that this is not the time to worry too much about sentence fragments, erratic punctuation, or many of the other grammatical elements that must necessarily concern us in more formal types of composition. There is at least one handy rule-of-thumb for creative writing: if it works, use it.

Locating Subjects for Creative Writing –

The subjects listed in this section do not pretend to be anything more than suggestion, ideas for approaching **VARIOUS FORMS OF CREATIVE WRITING**. They could inspire almost anything – a play, a story, a poem or a song, a character sketch, a writing experiment. It hardly matters. More important than the image or idea is the imagination it fires.

It is in many ways apparent from the above that any section in the writing may be used to fire creative imagination. Some narrative element is often important, even essential, in creative writing. Crafting more or less footloose material to the demands of a narrative line, making it fit, making it belong, can lift a common piece of descriptive expository writing towards something larger, give it form, harmony – turn it, that is to say, towards art.

For enrichment (some examples you could choose)

1. Offer proof of Santa Claus in extremely scientific jargon.
2. Write a sketch showing the language of righteous indignation – especially show how impressive, and therefore effective, such language can be.
3. Read a certain notable style of writing and parody it. You might, to begin, want to read James Thurber's parody of Henry James – "The Beast in the Dingle" – and write your own parody of James.
4. Write and illustrate a story for children.
5. Rework a number of proverbs around a certain theme. The following example is a reworking of one of the most familiar proverbs. "You can take a car to a traffic light, but can't make it stop."