

# HIDDEN MEANINGS: CREATIVE FICTION, NON-FICTION, AND FACTS

## SESSION ONE—Assignment

Below are the assignment questions for this session

### PROMPT 1

Compose a 250-1500 word piece that tweaks reality in some way. You might mimic Borges and mix fact with fiction, cite imaginary scientific research, create a new continent, planet, alternate law of physics, or historical event. You might, like Pelster, relate a true story and layer it with fantasy and dream imagery. You might have your own take on alternate facts. Feel free to experiment and explore. Notice what happens to your story when these “alternative facts” are brought to bear on your characters, plot and setting. Does it enhance or detract from the deeper meaning of the piece?

As you read your classmates’ work, comment on how well they integrated alternate realities, what effect that bending or blending of truth had on the elements of the story as well as on you the reader. Were there places you felt they held back? Were there places they went too far? How well were they able to achieve a clear articulation of the story while still maintaining factual “infinite and plastic” ambiguity?

### PROMPT 2

In 250-1500 words, expand on your answer to the discussion question for this session on the most real moment you have experienced. Write a scene, story, creative non-fiction article, flash fiction, or poem that dives deeply into a moment of intense reality. What does this moment look like? How does it affect the central characters? Using devices like sensory description, dialogue, imagery, language, and structure, work on conveying the experience in such a way that your reader feels that they too have gone through something incredible and transformative.

As you read your classmates’ work, notice what devices they use to convey the experience to you the reader. Do you feel drawn in? Relay your experience of the piece back to them in

# HIDDEN MEANINGS: CREATIVE FICTION, NON-FICTION, AND FACTS

helpful feedback. What did they do well? How do you think they might develop their piece in the future?