

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

SESSION Two—Assignment

Below are the assignment questions for this session

Prompt #1

Take a short fiction or nonfiction scene and write it first in 3rd person and then in 1st person. Experiment with how the change in POV alters how and what information can be presented in the scene. Post both versions so we can see the difference in what you show us.

Peer Response Questions to Prompt #1

How did the change in POV change the information that you got as a reader? Was one version more clear or compelling?

Prompt #2

An unequal share of information can create unequal power in the relationship between two characters and can help create more tension. How you show the reader this unequal relationship can depend on POV, narrative distance, genre, style and many other factors. This week, write a scene (fiction or nonfiction) where one character has more information than another, but break away from the methods that you are usually comfortable with. Try changing to a different POV, change the distance or genre to both give yourself a challenge and free yourself of normal expectations while you show us the dynamics of this relationship.

Peer Response Questions to Prompt #2

Did you notice anything about the piece that seemed particularly experimental or out of the ordinary? Did that element work, or did it feel out of place? What further experiments or changes might make the piece even more interesting?

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

Prompt #3

Consider our discussion of truthiness and the cognitive understanding of why we find certain bits of information either intuitively believable or easy to reject. Think of how you can use these tools as you write a short piece that has an unusual element to it. Take something that our minds would normally reject as too fantastic and present it so that the reader can intuitively accept it as either fact or believable in the scope of your story.

Peer Response Questions to Prompt #3

Did the fantastic element in this story come across as believable? Given this start, would you accept more unusual elements from the writer, or would you need more convincing? Is there a way that the author might have framed things differently to make it more believable?