

Creative Nonfiction Research Essay

This final research essay is a chance for you to dive deeper into the scholarship around a particular aspect of creative nonfiction. You will write an original argument that involves creative nonfiction in some way.

The goal of the project is that you participate in a scholarly conversation about creative nonfiction.

For example, you could make an argument about a subgenre of creative nonfiction, or you could analyze the composition of a particular creative nonfiction text. You could discuss the rhetorical purposes of different creative nonfiction theories or formats, drawing on *Reading Autobiography* as a starting point. You could explore a particular ethical conversation of creative nonfiction, such as ghostwriting or the concept of truth. Regardless of your topic, **you should create an original argument that demonstrates your critical and scholarly thinking about creative nonfiction.** The argument can be written for the discipline of your choice; however, it should follow an official scholarly citation format and the rhetorical moves of the field.

Note: You could build off of your topic for your CNF presentation as long as you make the purposeful shift from informing an audience to arguing/persuading a scholarly audience.

Step 1: Proposal (due 3/27 – if you need more time, let me know)

First, you will submit a 200-250 word proposal that outlines the **topic** and **direction** of your paper. Identify a tentative **thesis statement/argument** (that will obviously grow and change). Also, include a **proposed bibliography of at least three scholarly sources** that you plan to use for your paper. Finally, discuss **why you want to write** about this topic, and identify the **discipline** you will be writing this paper for (English? History? Etc.). How might this paper benefit you in your future graduate studies?

Upload this proposal to Blackboard. I will read through your proposal and either approve it or ask you to revise.

Step 2: Research Essay (due 4/25)

Then, you will write an 8-10 page (conference length) original argument on some aspect of creative nonfiction. Choice of topic and approach are open: theoretical, philosophical, historical, critical, etc., but your essay must be scholarly in nature, using an appropriate number of scholarly sources that inform your argument on the conversation you are entering.

You are not required to submit a draft; however, you are welcome to meet with me about ideas or to look over a draft at any point.

This assignment is in lieu of the remediation assignment of the undergraduate students.

REQUIREMENTS

Papers should be between **8-10 pages** and written for an audience of scholars in a particular discipline. Reference **at least three scholarly sources** (though you will likely include more). Cite the sources according to your preferred citation style, whether MLA, APA, or Chicago/Turabian. However, the paper should be double-spaced, 12pt, Times New Roman.

This paper is due by midnight on April 25 (the final day of class). It is worth 30% of your grade.