

Creative Writing: Definition, Types and Examples

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Abstract

Creative writing is a dynamic and expressive form of communication that enables writers to convey their thoughts, emotions, and experiences through imaginative storytelling. This art form encompasses various genres, including fiction, poetry, drama, and creative nonfiction. Through creative writing, authors can experiment with language, structure, and narrative techniques to craft unique and engaging works. By tapping into their imagination and creativity, writers can produce original and thought-provoking pieces that resonate with readers and inspire new perspectives. Creative writing can technically be considered any writing of original composition. In this sense, creative writing is a more contemporary and process-oriented name for what has been traditionally called literature, including the variety of its genres. In her work, *Foundations of Creativity*, Mary Lee Marksberry references Paul Witty and Lou LaBrant's *Teaching the People's Language* to define creative writing.

Keywords: creative writing, imagination, storytelling, literary genres, self-expression, perspectives, technically, contemporary, traditionally, genres

Introduction

The basic purpose of creative writing is to both entertain and share human experience, like love or loss. Writers attempt to get at a truth about humanity through poetics and storytelling. If you'd like to try your hand at creative writing, just keep in mind that whether you are trying to express a feeling or a thought, the first step is to use your imagination. Creative writing is one of the most misunderstood disciplines in the 21st century. When people think of a creative writing course, they often imagine a group of lofty, out-of-touch people who wear argyle sweater vests and have unproductive conversations about abstract concepts. In reality, nothing could be further from the truth: the best writing classes remain engaged with the real world, and the skills gained in a creative writing course apply to nearly every facet of daily life. If you're wondering whether it's worth picking up a course in fiction, nonfiction, or poetry, we have five reasons to study creative writing. But first, let's talk about what actually happens in a creative writing course. Simply put, creative writing helps us preserve our humanity. What better medium to explore the human experience? Creative writing, like any art form, requires compassion, contemplation, and curiosity. Writers preserve the world as they observe it in stories and poetry, and they imagine a better world by creating it in their works. Through the decades, literature has explored society's profound changes. Literary eons like the Naturalist movement and the Beat poets responded to the increase in Western Industrialization. Confessional poets like Virginia Woolf helped transform poetry into a medium for emotional exploration and excavation. And, genre movements like the cyberpunk writers of science fiction helped popularize the idea of an "information economy." Thus, the importance of creative writing lies in its ability to describe the world through an honest and unfiltered lens. Anyone who engages in creative writing, no matter the genre or style, helps us explore the human experience, share new ideas, and advocate for a better society. Whether you write your stories for yourself or share them with a wide audience, creative writing makes the world a better place.

Defining Creative Writing:

Creative writing, a form of artistic expression, draws on the imagination to convey meaning through the use of imagery, narrative and drama. Traditionally referred to as literature, creative writing is an art of sorts - the art of making things up. It's writing done in a way that is not academic or technical but still attracts an audience. Though the definition is rather loose, creative writing can for the most part be considered any writing that is original and self-expressive. A news article, for example, cannot be considered creative writing because its main goal is to present facts and not to express the feelings of the writer. While a news article can be entertaining, its main purpose is to present the facts.

The purpose of creative writing is to both entertain and share human experience, like love or loss. Writers attempt to get at a truth about humanity through poetics and storytelling. If you'd like to try your hand at creative writing, just keep in mind that whether you are trying to express a feeling or a thought, the first step is to use your imagination.

Types of Creative Writing Include:

1. Poetry
2. Plays
3. Movie and television scripts
4. Fiction (novels, novellas, and short stories)
5. Songs
6. Speeches
7. Memoirs
8. Personal essays

As you can see, some nonfiction types of writing can also be considered creative writing. Memoirs and personal essays, for example, can be written creatively to inform your readers about your life in an expressive way. Because these types are written in first person, it's easier for them to be creative.

Techniques Used in Creative Writing Include:

- (1) Character Development
- (2) Plot Development
- (3) Vivid Setting
- (4) Underlying Theme
- (5) Point of View
- (6) Dialogue
- (7) Anecdotes
- (8) Metaphors and Similes
- (9) Figures of Speech
- (10) Imaginative Language
- (11) Emotional Appeal
- (12) Heavy Description

Examples of Creative Writing:

A. Poetry and Songs:

A poem or a song tends to be more elusive, or mysterious, because it has limited space. Because of its spatial limitations, however, it can make leaps in subject and time, and it doesn't have to rely on narrative structure. In poetry and songs, literary devices, like similes and metaphors, can be used to take the readers to surprising places. Some examples are here:

1. William Shakespeare in his famous sonnet no.18 namely-

"Shall I Compare Thee to A Summer's Day"

If there exists a poet who truly mastered the metaphor, that would be William Shakespeare. His poetical works and dramas all make extensive use of metaphors. His famous sonnet "Shall I compare Thee to a Summer Day", is an extended analogy between the speaker's lover and the fairness of the summer.

"Thy eternal summer shall not fade"

Here, Shakespeare is communicating that the speaker's lover will remain beautiful and vital, though perhaps only in memory, captured in this rhyming couplet:

"So long as men can breathe or eyes can see
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee."

Love, like summer, is a life-giving force, but both come to an end. However, the poet's love and lover will live on as long as people read this poem.

2. John Donne:

Metaphysical Poet John Donne was also well known for his use of metaphors. In his famous work- 'The Sun Rising', the speaker tells the sun that nothing else is as important in the world as him and his lover. Lines are...

"She is all states, and all princes, I,
Nothing else is.
Princes do but play us; compared to this
All honours mimicque; All wealth alchemy."

Here, in this highly evocative metaphor, Donne is claiming that his lover is like every country in the world, and every ruler - nothing else exists outside of them. Their love so strong that they are the world and all else is fake.

3. Sylvia Plath's "Life"

Touch it: It won't shrink like an eyeball,
This egg-shaped bailiwick, clear as a tear.
Here's yesterday, last year-
Palm-spear and lily distinct as flora in the vast
Windless thread works of a tapestry.

4. Francis Bacon:

The great essayist Francis Bacon has used 'metaphor' very skilfully to express his views and to give an excellent shape to his marvellous essays like- Of Truth, Of Revenge, Of Studies, Of Marriage and Single Life, Of Love, and Of Friendship etc...

Of Truth: “Truth is a naked and open delight, that doth not Shew the marks and mummeries, and triumphs of the world, half so stately and daintily as a candle light”.

"Certainly, it is heaven upon earth, to have a man's mind move in charity, rest in providence, and turn upon the poles of truth".

Of Revenge: “Revenge is a kind of wild justice”.

Of Adversity: "Virtue is like precious odours, most fragrant when they are increased or crushed”.

Of Marriage and Single Life: “He that hath wife and children hath given hostages to fortune; for they are impediments to great enterprises, either of virtue or mischief”.

Of Love: “It is impossible to love, and to be wise”.

Of Friendship: "A crowd is not company, and faces are but a gallery of pictures, and talk but a tinkling cymbal, where there is no love”.

Of Studies: “Studies serve for delight, for ornament and for ability."

“Histories make men wise; poets witty, the mathematics subtle, natural philosophy deep; moral grave; logic and rhetoric able to contend”.

“Read not to contradict and confute; nor to believe and take for granted; nor to find talk and discourse; but to weigh and consider”.

Why Learn Creative Writing?

- Creative writing is one of the most misunderstood disciplines in the 21st century. When people think of a creative writing course, they often imagine a group of lofty, out-of-touch people who wear argyle sweater vests and have unproductive conversations about abstract concepts.
- In reality, nothing could be further from the truth: the best writing classes remain engaged with the real world, and the skills gained in a creative writing course apply to nearly every facet of daily life.
- If you’re wondering whether it’s worth picking up a course in fiction, nonfiction, or poetry, we have five reasons to study creative writing. But first, let’s talk about what actually happens in a creative writing course.

The Basics of a Writing Workshop:

Whether you’re enrolled in a poetry, fiction, or nonfiction writing class, you can expect the following writing process:

- I. Do or join a quality writing course to develop creative writing skills.
- II. Weekly prompts and writing exercises to sharpen the precision and necessity of each word you use.
- III. Constructive critiques from a community of writers who are each growing their writing skills alongside you.
- IV. A creative space to explore new ideas, experiment with language, and arrange words in new and exciting ways.
- V. Focused writing instruction from a master of the craft.

The Importance of Creative Writing:

- Simply put, creative writing helps us preserve our humanity. What better medium to explore the human experience?
- Creative writing, like any art form, requires compassion, contemplation, and curiosity. Writers preserve the world as they observe it in stories and poetry, and they imagine a better world by creating it in their works.
- Through the decades, literature has explored society's profound changes. Literary eons like the Naturalist movement and the Beat poets responded to the increase in Western Industrialization. Confessional poets like Virginia Woolf helped transform poetry into a medium for emotional exploration and excavation. And, genre movements like the cyberpunk writers of science fiction helped popularize the idea of an "information economy."
- Thus, the importance of creative writing lies in its ability to describe the world through an honest and unfiltered lens. Anyone who engages in creative writing, no matter the genre or style, helps us explore the human experience, share new ideas, and advocate for a better society. Whether you write your stories for yourself or share them with a wide audience, creative writing makes the world a better place.

The Benefits of Creative Writing:

1. Creative Writing Improves Self-Expression:

- Improving your writing skills leads to stronger communication. When you practice finding the right word in a story or poem, you engage the same parts of your brain that are active in everyday writing and speaking. A creative writing course subconsciously turns you into a more effective communicator.
- The importance of precise language and self-advocacy translates well into both interpersonal relationships and working environments. Take it from this expert on how writing and self-advocacy results in career and leadership success.

2. Creative Writing Leads to Job Success:

- This brings us to our next point: great writing leads to job success. Of course, your boss probably isn't expecting you to write emails in the form of a short story or a sonnet – though if they are expecting this, you have a pretty cool boss.
- In reality, almost every job requires some sort of written work, whether that's simple written communication or something more elaborate, like publishing data or marketing materials. In a creative writing class, you practice the style and grammar rules necessary for effective writing, both within the realms of literature and in career-related writing. Sharpening your writing and creativity skills might just land you your next promotion.
- The benefits of creative writing come from engaging with the course material, the writing prompts, and the other class members. These elements help you become a better writer, both in creative realms and in everyday life. How? No matter what form of writing, a creative writing class pushes you to connect ideas and create effective narratives using the best words – and that skill translates into real world success.

3. Creative Writing Boosts Thinking Skills:

- Strong writing leads to strong thinking. No matter what type of writing you pursue, learning how to write is another form of learning how to think.
- That might seem like a bold claim, so think about it this way. Without language, our thoughts wouldn't have form. We might not need language to think "I'm hungry" or "I like cats," but when it comes to

more abstract concepts, language is key. How would you think about things like justice, revenge, or equality without the words to express them?

- When you hone in on your ability to find choice, specific words, and when you work on the skills of effective storytelling and rhetoric, you improve your ability to think in general. Good writing yields great thinking!

4. Creative Writing Fosters Empathy:

- Reading and writing both rely on empathy, especially when it comes to being an effective workshop participant. When we read and write stories, we situate ourselves in the shoes of other people; when we read and write poetry, we let language navigate us through emotion.
- The importance of creative writing relies on empathy. We practice empathy whenever we listen to another person's life story, when someone tells us about their day, and when we sit down with a client or work partner. When we write, we practice the ability to listen as well as to speak, making us more effective communicators and more compassionate human beings.

5. Creative Writing Is Fun:

- In case you're not convinced that a writing course is right for you, let's clarify one more fact: creative writing is fun. Whether you're in a fiction writing course, starting a memoir, crafting a poem, or writing for the silver screen, you're creating new worlds and characters. In the sandbox of literature, you're in control, and when you invest yourself into the craft of writing, something beautiful emerges.

Jobs For Creative Writers:

- Because creative writing isn't a STEM discipline, many people don't think that learning it will help their job prospects. Why study creative writing if it doesn't make any money?
- In fact, nothing could be further from the truth. Creative writing skills are much sought after on resumes, since both creativity and the ability to write are soft skills in decline. Additionally, if you're considering a career change—or ready to start one!—these are some popular jobs for creative writers. For example: Novel Writing and Poetry Writing etc.

The dream job for many writers is to write and sell books. Being a novelist is an admirable career choice—and also requires the most work. Not only do you have to write your stories, but you also have to market yourself in the literary industry and maintain a social presence so that publishers and readers actually read your work. It's a tough business, but also incredibly rewarding!

Reasons to Study Creative Writing: Finding a Writing Community:

Finally, creative writing communities make the writing struggle worth it. The relationships you foster with other creative writers can last a lifetime, as no other group of people has the same appreciation for the written word. Creative writing communities create transformative experiences and encourage growth in your writing; if there's one reason to study creative writing craft, it's the friendships you make in the process.

You don't need a class to start writing, but it's never a waste of time to learn the tools of the trade. Creative writing requires the skills that can help you in everyday life, and a creative writing course can help.

Writing Short Story Vs Novel: How to Decide Which to Write?

How can you tell whether the idea you're working on is a short story or a novel? You might think the difference between these two art forms is one of length, but the major differences between how a short story

works and a novel works has more to do with thematic and aesthetic considerations than word count alone. Length and Complexity are important part for writing a short story or a novel. A writer should think what kind of writer he or she is....? If one wants to learn more about writing then he or she should learn more about writing.

Novel Versus Short Story:

- The length of a story is the most obvious difference between a short story and a novel. Length can help you determine which you are writing: Does your story need the room of a novel to be told properly, or is it able to be quickly wrapped up?
- Broadly speaking, a short story is any work of narrative fiction from 1,000 to 10,000 words. Novels, by contrast, tend to be around 50,000 to 70,000 words, though of course there are plenty of examples of novels that are longer or shorter than those arbitrary guidelines. Generally speaking, though, a good short story is designed to be read in a single sitting or a day, while a novel is meant to occupy the reader for a longer period of time, like days, weeks, or even months.

Type of Story:

- What really drives the length of the story? That depends on your idea. Generally speaking, a longer story requires a larger or more complex idea to sustain that length. The story of a trip to your grandmothers for dinner may make a fine subject for a short story but unless you're Marcel Proust, that may be hard to pull off in a novel.
- Amount of time. In general, short stories tend to cover events of a shorter time period than novels. But that's not always the case, Chekhov, for instance, wrote many stories that feel more like compact novels, covering years of time in just a few, tightly written pages.

Novel Versus Short Story: Complexity-

While outlining your story, ask yourself: Does this story require extensive backstory to make sense to the reader? Does it revolve around a single event or a complex series of incidents? Are there many subplots or digressions necessary to convey the full sweep of the story? The more information you need to convey for the story to resonate, the longer a project you're looking at.

Subplots:

Another way to think about the difference between stories and novels has to do with the complexity of the story. A short story tends to take less time, following just a single thread, and rarely features more than a single subplot. A novel, by contrast, might burst with subplots.

Setting:

Introducing your reader to a new setting can take a lot of time. If you're writing in a historical time period, or building a new world as you might if you are writing science fiction, you'll probably need to write more exposition than a story that is set in the present moment and in a familiar place.

Number of Characters:

Novels often have larger casts of highly developed characters. Short stories generally feature fewer characters or even just one main character.

Points of View:

Consider how you want your story told: What is the point of view? It can be difficult as a writer (and confusing to a reader) to switch points of view over the course of a short story. In a longer your story, strategic shifts in point of view (even between first person and third person) may be important as a way to sustain the reader's interest—spending too many pages with the same character or viewpoint can sometimes wear out a reader.

What Kind of Writer Are You?

As a writer, you need to determine what sort of writing process your ideas most naturally lend themselves to. While novels are the books that tend to be the most widely read and celebrated, there are plenty of writers (Kafka, Chekhov, Premchand and Borges are good examples) who were short story writers almost exclusively. There are also plenty of examples of writers, like Hemingway, who wrote both stories and short stories. The only real question is which form is best suited to the kind of story you're trying to tell.

Want to Learn More About Writing?

If you want to learn more about writing then you are needed read lessons taught by literary masters, including Neil Gaiman, David Baldacci, Joyce Carol Oates, David Sedaris, Dan Brown, Margaret Atwood, and more. It will help a lot to correct the minute weakness.

Learn the Types of Writing:

Whether you write essays, business materials, fiction, articles, letters, or even just notes in your journal, your writing will be at its best if you stay focused on your purpose. While there are many reasons why you might be putting pen to paper or tapping away on the keyboard, there are really only four main types of writing:

- i. Expository
- ii. Descriptive
- iii. Persuasive
- iv. Narrative

Each of these four writing genres has a distinct aim, and they all require different types of writing skills. You may also have heard them referred to in an academic setting as modes of discourse or rhetorical modes. Institutions of higher learning teach nine traditional rhetorical modes, but the majority of pieces we are called upon to write will have one of these four main purposes.

Expository Writing:

The word expository contains the word expose, so the reason expository is an apt descriptor for this type of writing is that it exposes, or sets forth, facts. It is probably the most common writing genre you will come across throughout your day. In an expository piece, a topic will be introduced and laid out in a logical order without reference to the author's personal opinions.

Expository writing can be found in...

- Textbooks
- Journalism (except for opinion and editorial articles)
- Business

- Writing
- Technical Writing
- Essays
- Instructions

All of these kinds of writing are expository because they aim to explain and inform. For example:

“The municipal government of Hapeville unanimously approved the construction of sixty-two miles of bike trails in 2017. Made possible by a new tax levy, the bike trails are expected to help the city reach its sustainability and clean air goals while reducing traffic and congestion. Eighteen trailheads with restrooms and picnic areas have been planned at a variety of access points. The city expects construction to be complete in April 2021.”

Because this paragraph supplies the reader with facts and figures about its topic, the new bike trails, without offering the author’s opinion on it, it is expository.

Descriptive Writing:

The aim of descriptive writing is to help the reader visualize, in detail, a character, event, place, or all of these things at once. The author might describe the scene in terms of all five senses. Descriptive writing allows the writer a great deal more artistic freedom than expository writing does. Descriptive writing can be found in:

- Fiction
- Poetry
- Advertising
- Journal
- Diary Writing

For Example:

“The children pedaled leisurely down the Hapeville Bike Trail, their giggles and whoops reverberating through the warm spring air. Sweet-scented wildflowers brought an array of colour to the gently undulating landscape, tempting the children to dismount now and then so they could lay down in the spring, soft grass.”

Through description, this passage paints a vivid picture of a scene on the new bike trail.

Persuasive Writing:

The aim of persuasive writing, or argumentation, is to influence the reader to assume the author’s point of view. The author will express personal opinions in the piece and arm him- or herself with evidence so that the reader will agree with him or her. Persuasive writing can be found in:

- Advertising
- Opinion and Editorial Pieces
- Reviews
- Job Applications

For Example:

“The bike trail is the glittering gem of Hapeville’s new infrastructure. It winds through sixty-two miles of lush landscape, dotted by clean and convenient facilities. If you haven’t experienced the Hapeville Bike Trail yet, ditch your car and head outside! Could life in Hapeville get any more idyllic?”

A number of statements in this paragraph are opinion rather than fact: that the bike trail is a glittering gem, that the facilities are clean and convenient, and that life in Hapeville is idyllic. Clearly, the author’s aim here is to use these depictions to persuade readers to use the bike trail.

Narrative Writing:

The purpose of narrative writing is to tell a story, whether that story is real or imaginary. Pieces in a narrative style will have characters, and through the narrative, the reader learns what happens to them. Narrative writing can also include dialogue.

Narrative writing can be found in...

- All Types of Fiction (e.g., novels, short stories, novellas)
- Poetry
- Biographies
- Human Interest
- Stories
- Anecdotes.

For Example:

“As I cycled down the trail, I heard children giggling and whooping just around the bend. I crested a small hill and coasted down the curving path until I found the source of the noise. Three little girls sat in the grass by a big oak tree. They were startled to see me, and I smiled kindly to put them at ease.

“What are you doing?” I asked.

“Nothing,” they chirped in unison.”

In this passage, the author sets the scene on the bike trail from his or her own point of view (which is referred to as narrating in the first person). Using both description and dialogue, the story that takes place is laid out in chronological order.

Understanding Your Purpose Empowers Your Writing:

Simply puzzling out which of these four types of writing best suits your purpose and adhering to it can help you write more efficiently and effectively.

To summarize:

- Expository writing sets forth facts. You can find it in textbooks, journalism (except opinion or editorial articles), business writing, technical writing, essays, and instructions.
- Descriptive writing evokes images through rich description. You can find it in fiction, poetry, journal writing, and advertising.
- Persuasive writing aims to sway the reader toward the author’s point of view. It is used heavily in advertising, and can also be found in opinion and editorial pieces, reviews, and job applications.

- Narrative writing tells a story. It can be found in fiction, poetry, biographies, human interest stories, and anecdotes.

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