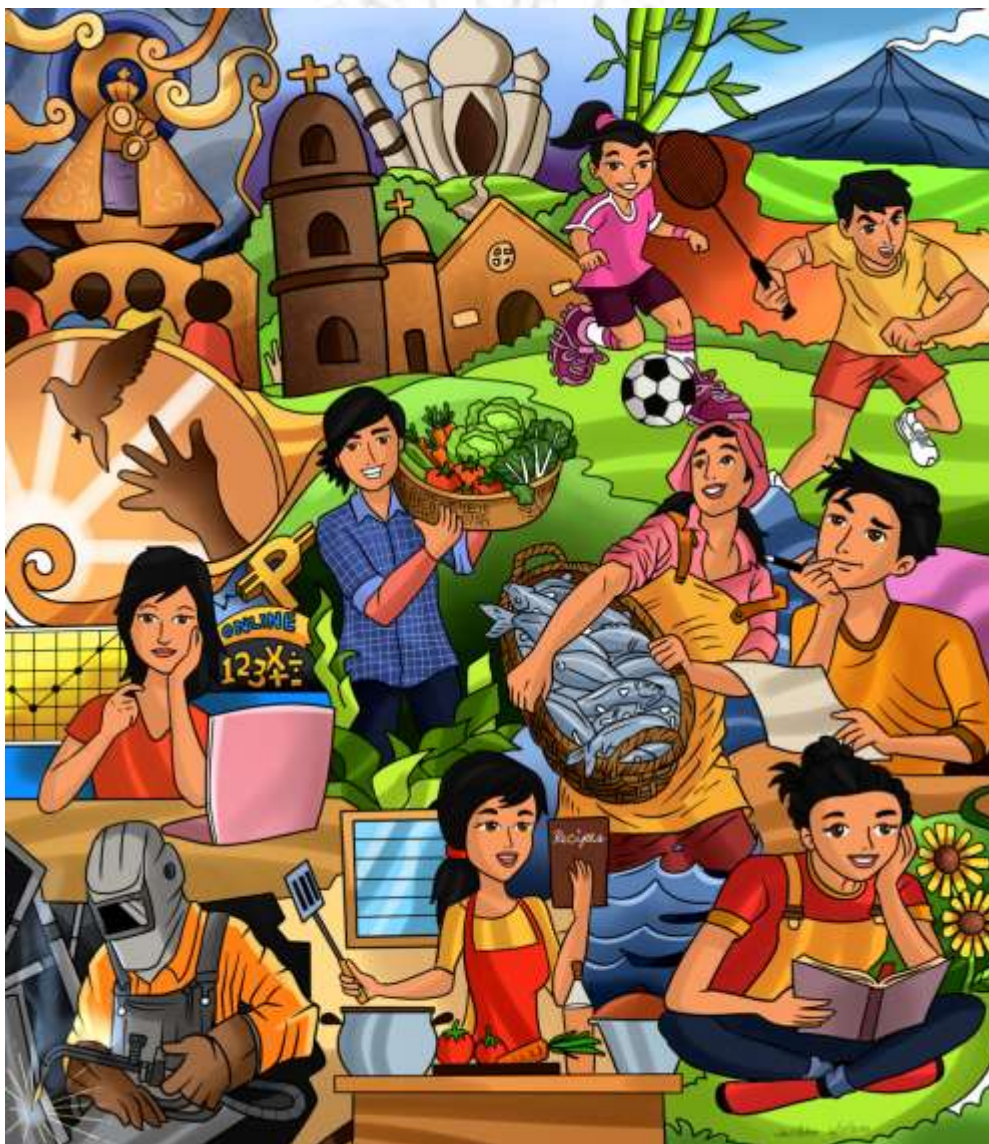


Creative Nonfiction

Quarter 2 – Module 1:

Creative Nonfiction Forms and Types



Creative Nonfiction

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QUARTER 2, MODULE 1

• **Creative Nonfiction Forms and Types**

If creative nonfiction has been written for as long as we can remember, then it is safe to assume that there are various creative nonfiction forms and works out there. Chances are, you have read a lot of these genre forms, and perhaps, have at one point or another appreciated those works because they seem so relatable, or practical, or that they're simply fun and easy to read. Whatever the case, in this lesson, you will get to know how these forms are called (labels are important, right?) and how one differ from the other. Well, you better read on and learn.

Learning Competencies:

1. Explain the relationship of elements and ideas found in the various forms and types of creative nonfictional texts through a close reading.
2. Compare and contrast the different forms and types of creative nonfictional texts.

Learning Targets:

At the end of the lesson, you are expected to:

Read sample creative nonfiction works and differentiate one from the other based on elements and ideas presented.

KEY WORDS

Autobiography/Biography

Literary Journalism/Reportage

Personal Narrative

Travelogue

Reflection Essay

True Narrative

Vlog/Blog

Testimonio

VOCABULARY LIST

1. **Autobiography.** It is a life story written by the author himself.
2. **Biography.** It is a life story of a person written by another.
3. **Literary Journalism/Reportage.** It is the creative nonfiction form that comes closest to newspaper and magazine writing. It is fact-driven and requires research and, often, interviews.
4. **Personal Narrative.** It is a narrative essay about a true story of something that happened to someone, usually told to illustrate an insight. It is based on autobiographical events.
5. **Travelogue.** It is a story of the experiences encountered by someone while touring a place for the pleasure of travel.
6. **Reflection Essay.** It is a form of writing that examines and observes the progress and meaning of a writer's individual experiences like a journal about the thoughts on a certain topic.
7. **True Narrative.** It is an objective account of something (e.g. journalistic report).
8. **Blog.** It combines text, images and links to relevant pages and media on the Web.
9. **Vlog.** It combines text, images, videos and links to relevant pages and media on the Web.
10. **Testimonio.** It is a solemn attestation as to the truth of a matter. In literature, it is an oral or written autobiographical narrative referred to as "testimonial literature." The term "testimonio" refers to a kind of writing which comes from Latin America, dealing with experiences of human rights abuse.

PRE-TEST

Directions: Choose from the pool of words that corresponds the statement below. Write your answers in your notebook.

testimonio	vlog	biography	autobiography
true narrative	personal narrative	reflection essay	
travelogue	blog	literary journalism/reportage	

1. It combines text, images, videos and links to relevant pages and media on the Web.
2. It is a self-authored story of a person's life.
3. It is "an authentic narrative, told by a witness who is moved to narrate by the urgency of a situation (e.g., war, oppression, revolution, etc.)."
4. It tells instances in the writer's life which are meant to deliver an impactful point or two to the audience.

5. It is a person's account of a journey to another country or place.
6. It is the creative nonfiction form that comes closest to newspaper and magazine writing.
7. It is an essay in which the writer examines his or her experiences in life.
8. It is a creative nonfiction work wherein the writer places a personal experience within the context of a larger theme, such as a lesson learned.

LEARNING ABOUT IT

Forms and Types of Creative Nonfiction

A. Autobiography/Biography

An autobiography is a self-authored story of a person's life. It is an account of one's life written or recorded in some way by that person.

Since A.D 400, people have been writing autobiographies. In the early days, memoirs were often confused with autobiographies, but today that dichotomy is much clearer: a memoir typically records one area of the author's life – such as his or her career – and usually only describes events that the author has directly witnessed.

The best way to write an autobiography is to treat your life as an interesting story. Starting from birth, enhance the story's appeal as you take the reader or listener through the different stages of your life.

Both biography and autobiography tell the story of an individual person's life. The difference is that an autobiography is written by the subject of the story while a biography is written by a third person. A biography is generally preferred over an autobiography to be published as a book or produced as a movie.

Autobiographies are often confused with memoirs. An autobiography is the inspiring story of a person's entire life and the societal setting thereof, while memoirs have a narrower focus on the narration of a particular span of time within the subject's lifetime. It mostly deals with individual's memories, feelings and emotions. Memoirs are generally much shorter in length because they tend to concentrate on a particular theme rather than the entire life of the person.

Reference:

Laran, J. (2020). *How to Write an Autobiography and Make the Bestseller List*. From <https://blog.udemy.com/how-to-write-an-autobiography-2/>

B. Literary Journalism/Reportage

Literary journalism is the creative nonfiction form that comes closest to newspaper and magazine writing. It is fact-driven and requires research and, often, interviews.

Literary journalism is sometimes called "immersion journalism" because it requires a closer, more active relationship to the subject and to the people the literary journalist is exploring. Like journalistic writing, the literary journalism piece should be well-researched, focus on a brief period of time, and concentrate on

what is happening outside of the writer's small circle of personal experience and feelings.

Literary Journalism is also known as **docufiction**, **immersion journalism**, **new journalism**, **narrative journalism** or **creative non-fiction**. Literary Journalists immerse themselves in a subject's world and write information that take the form of reports but shape them in such a way that the report reads like fiction.

Some of the writings that fall within the genre of Literary Journalism include **biography**, **memoirs**, **personal essay**, **travel writing**, **hybridized essays**, and **food writing** among others.

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Purdue University. Purdue Online Writing Lab. (2020). from https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/teacher_and_tutor_resources/writing_instructors/creative_nonfiction_in_writing_courses/literary_journalism.html

Nyakangi, E. (2020). Literary Journalism. <https://kenyayote.com/literary-journalism-what-is-literary-journalism-and-history-of-literary-journalism/>

C. Personal narratives

Writing a personal narrative essay is sometimes confused with writing some things in your diary. But it's not merely just that. Although narrative essays tell instances in your life, these instances are meant to deliver an impactful point or two to your audience. The instances that can be cited in this type of essays don't really have to be extremely rare and anything mundane can also be written on it.

Personal narrative essays can be written as a means to point out the activities in our mundane life and painting them in another light. From sharp observations, significant questions which should not be ignored can then be formulated.

Subsequently, a growing curiosity transforms into an individual need that compels the individual to learn and familiarize the principles on a certain matter.

Reference:

Jones, J. (2018). What is a Personal Narrative? From <https://classroom.synonym.com/what-is-a-personal-narrative-13709363.html>

a. Travelogue

A travelogue is a person's account of a journey to another country or place. It can either be a written report with many factual details or a narrative story about personal impressions and experiences supported by images.

Travel writing is quite a popular genre. People take the help of the travelogues to know about a particular place before deciding to visit it. Travel writing generally gives detailed information about the attractions of a place so that people get tempted to go there on their vacations. Hence, writers involved in travel writing should follow some specific rules to make their travelogues more appealing and interesting to the readers.

References:

Writing a Travelogue. (2020). <https://academichelp.net/creative-writing/write-travelogue.html>
<https://www.freelancewriting.com/business-writing/8-tips-for-writing-a-travelogue/>

b. Reflection essay

Reflective writing helps us to think more about ourselves, who we are, and how we have changed. A reflective essay is an essay in which the writer examines his or her experiences in life. The writer then writes about those experiences, exploring how he or she has changed, developed or grown from those experiences.

The format of a reflective essay may change slightly depending on who the audience is. For example, writing a reflective essay for a college course and an academic audience will have slight changes in how the essay is organized from writing a reflective essay for a magazine or a collection of essays, which has a broader audience, without people who have necessarily gone to college. However, some major elements go into a typical reflective essay: introduction, body and conclusion.

Reference:

2020 The Oxbridge Research Group Ltd. *A Complete Guide to Writing a Reflective Essay*. From <https://www.oxbridgeessays.com/blog/complete-guide-to-writing-a-reflective-essay/>

c. True narratives

In a narrative essay, the writer tells a story about a real-life experience. Everyone enjoys a good story—especially one that captures the imagination. However, the narrative essay goes further. In it, the writer places a personal experience within the context of a larger theme, such as a lesson learned. When writing a narrative essay, the writer wants not only to tell a good story, but also convey why the story has meaning.

Reference:

<https://www.time4writing.com/writing-resources/narrative-essays/>

d. Vlogs

A typical vlog combines text, images, videos and links to relevant pages and media on the Web. Blog readers can leave comments and communicate with the author. In fact, dialogue and interaction are a popular part of a blog's success.

e. Blogs

A blog (shortened from the phrase “weblog”) is known as many things—a digital magazine, diary, newscast, collector's meeting place, a showcase for your art, information sharing, teaching hub, place to learn and... well, almost anything you want it to be. A typical blog combines text, images, and links to relevant pages and media on the Web. Blog readers can leave comments and communicate with the author. In fact, dialogue and interaction are a popular part of a blog's success.

In the blogging world, you have the word “blog” (an online journal), “blogger” (the person who owns and contributes to a blog) and “blogging” (the act of creating content for the blog). You can be a “blogger blogging on a blog,” a “blog about a blogger blogging” or a “blogging blog about a blogger.”

One of the great things about blogging is the impact it has made on communication throughout the world. Blogs can report news as it happens, hold mainstream media to higher standards and provide specific news and information to meet niche interests.

Here are the most popular styles and types of blogs:

1. **Personal blogs** share thoughts, original art, poems, writing or photography. Some sell custom crafts, art or products. If you just want to make a statement, show your DIY (do it yourself) skills, have fun or blog for therapy, a personal blog is perfect for your needs.
2. **Business blogs** are created in the voice of the company, as a crucial component of marketing. They can function as a direct-sales tool and are outstanding for both messaging and two-way communication as part of a company's public relations efforts. Blogs are effective and cost-efficient vehicles for small organizations that need to publish information for their customers or members.
3. **Niche/topical blogs** focus on a particular interest. They can be about health, gardening, education, sports, fashion or or lifestyle. Name your special interest and you can blog about it. If you're a collector of antiques, a true-mystery fan, a travel addict or just love cooking, there may be a blog in your future. Niche blogs easily attract loyal followers, which contributes to the fun of blogging.
4. **Media-type blogs** are defined by their content. If you enjoy video blogging, then you're a vlogger. If you curate content from other websites, you have a linklog. If you post photos or art sketches on your blog, you're hosting a photoblog or artblog.
5. **Reverse blogs** are a unique but popular type of blog. Instead of the owner creating content, the content is supplied by the public. A reverse blog has a team who moderate posts, prevent unpleasant interactions and promote slow topics for greater interactivity.

Reference:

Djuraskovic, O. & Hines, K. How to Start a Blog the Beginner's Guide to Successful Blogging. FirstGuideTeam.

f. Testimonio

In the recent decades there has been a new immergence in Latin American literature, testimonial literature, or the **testimonio**. Testimonial literature is "an authentic narrative, told by a witness who is moved to narrate by the urgency of a situation (e.g., war, oppression, revolution, etc.). Emphasizing popular oral discourse, the witness portrays his or her own experience as a representative of a collective memory and identity.

This literature emerged as a backlash to the mainstream Latin American literature, it was a way to write back and correct the mainstream literature. These narratives differ from a biography or autobiography, because in most cases the author interviews an individual from a subaltern group,

transcribing it to tell the accounts in a first person format, giving the reader the sense the individual is recounting the story orally. In some ways this form of narrative is similar to an ethnographic work, but it emerges from a need to create social awareness and consciousness to marginalized groups and the exploitations they face.

According to Gugelberger & Kearney (1991) this narrative is an attempt to create a “global reordering of a social and economic context of power/differences within which “literature” is produced and consumed.” It is an attempt to restructure and challenge mainstream literature, and adding the real perspective and discourse of the “other”, marginalized groups, and create a consciousness of their existence and importance in the greater society. By challenging the mainstream canon it affected the concept of “natural” and accepted status quo, not only in the country produced but in gather global attention allowing the question of the exploitation and marginalization of subaltern groups.

Reference:

Walker, C. (2011). “Testimonio.” From <https://serendipstudio.org/exchange/cwalker/evolution-genres-latin-american-literature-birth-testimonio-testimonial-narrative>

Task 1

Directions: Identify what kind of creative nonfiction is the selection. Write your answers in your notebook.

The ashes filled a black plastic box about the size of a toaster. It weighed three and a half pounds. I put it in a canvas tote bag and packed it in my suitcase this past July for the transpacific flight to Manila. From there I would travel by car to a rural village. When I arrived, I would hand over all that was left of the woman who had spent 56 years as a slave in my family’s household.

Her name was Eudocia Tomas Pulido. We called her Lola. She was 4 foot 11, with mocha-brown skin and almond eyes that I can still see looking into mine—my first memory. She was 18 years old when my grandfather gave her to my mother as a gift, and when my family moved to the United States, we brought her with us. No other word but slave encompassed the life she lived. Her days began before everyone else woke and ended after we went to bed. She prepared three meals a day, cleaned the house, waited on my parents, and took care of my four siblings and me. My parents never paid her, and they scolded her constantly. She wasn’t kept in leg irons, but she might as well have been. So many nights, on my way to the bathroom, I’d spot her sleeping in a corner, slumped against a mound of laundry, her fingers clutching a garment she was in the middle of folding.

-from “My Family’s Slave” by Alex Tizon retrieved from

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2017/06/lolas-story/524490/>

1. _____

The schoolhouse consisted of a single room, with a Western-style roof, on the other side of the hill from Qunu. I was seven years old, and on the day before I was to begin, my father took me aside and told me that I must be dressed properly for school. Until that time, I, like all the other boys in Qunu, had worn only a blanket, which was wrapped around one shoulder and pinned at the waist. My father took a pair of his trousers and cut them at the knee. He told me to put them on, which I did, and they were roughly the correct length, although the waist was far too large. My father then took a piece of string and cinched the trousers at the waist. I must have been a comical sight, but I have never owned a suit I was prouder to wear than my father's cut-off pants.

On the first day of school, my teacher, Miss Mdingane, gave each of us an English name and said that from thenceforth that was the name we would answer to in school. This was the custom among Africans in those days and was undoubtedly due to the British bias of our education. The education I received was a British education, in which British ideas, British culture, British institutions, were automatically assumed to be superior. There was no such thing as African culture.

Africans of my generation — and even today — generally have both an English and an African name. Whites were either unable or unwilling to pronounce an African name, and considered it uncivilized to have one. That day, Miss Mdingane told me that my new name was Nelson. Why she bestowed this particular name upon me I have no idea. Perhaps it had something to do with the great British sea captain Lord Nelson, but that would be only a guess.

-Nelson Mandela, "Long Walk to Freedom"

2. _____

My experience with cancer has yet to end. I have to undergo chemotherapy until August (to make sure that the cancer cells that may still be roaming around in my blood will not cause new growth or spread to other organs). Yet, I find it necessary to reflect daily on my experience with cancer to preserve my sanity.

I have asked myself whether I have angry at all with God. It is normal (and perhaps healthy) to get angry in such a situation, to cry out to God, "Why me?" Anger is no longer considered a sin these days (only what we do with our anger).

However, it seems that I have managed to see my health condition in a very good light. Perhaps my many struggle and pains in the religious life have helped me see that God is very much present in my pains. God did not cause my pains, and surely God cries while I am in pain. But God is also waiting for me to transform my pain into something positive.

-Dom William Trinity Albert, OSB, "Coping with Cancer"

3. _____

Probably the most imposing and famous of all, however, is Taktshang Goemba, the Tiger's Nest, which was seemingly impossibly carved from the side of a cliff over nine hundred meters above the floor of the Paro Valley. Estimated to have been around since the ninth century, Taktshang peeps down through low clouds, a holy site to where Guru Rinpoche, one of Bhutan's most important religious figures,

was believed to have flown on the back of a flying tigress, and where he meditated for several days.

There are three vantage points on the way up to Taktshang. First stop, after an hour's uphill hike, brings you to a chorten (stupa) festooned with prayer flags at two thousand six hundred meters, a short walk from a cafeteria where hikers usually stop for meals. The way up is covered in lush greens, with the occasional rhododendron flowers blooming on the mountainside. You can stop here, sipping tea, with the monastery looming above you in the seemingly unreachable distance. But we were in for a pleasant surprise: our guide, Tshering, had a permit to enter the monastery, which can be visited only by special arrangement.

-Alya B. Honasan, "Peace in the Tiger's Nest"

4. _____

The river procession was always late in the afternoon. By the time it reached the river's end darkness had set, and the virgin saint's image would be taken down from the pagoda and taken back to church in another dancing procession: literally dancing in the streets! An orgy of dancing in the streets! I once thought of writing a short story with the Pateros fiesta as backdrop, but was afraid it would sound too much like Nick Joaquin's story on San Juan's *tatarin*.

Perhaps I shouldn't have abandoned the project. Unless the Pateros River gets dredged, the pagoda could die like the *tatarin*, and be remembered only as an element in a writer's story. On the other hand, if the river does get dredged and the pagoda gets restored to its former glory, there is danger – now that the original religious and ritualistic impulse of the fiesta is gone and only its mercantile possibilities remain – that it would be transformed into a commercialized tourist undertaking like Aklan's *at-atihan* and Marinduque's *morion*.

I don't know which prospect I dread more.

-Jose F. Lacaba, "St. Martha's Duckyard"

5. _____

Task 2

Directions: Research the following nonfiction material, identify its form/kind and provide reasons why is it so. Write your answer in your notebook.

	Title/author	Form/Kind	Reason
1	The Diary of Ann Frank by Ann Frank		
2	Drawing Blood by Molly Crabapple		
3	Cork Dork by Bianca Bosker		
4	Tikim: Essays on Philippine Food and Culture		
5	Twisted by Jessica Zafra		

POST-TEST

Directions: Go over the five excerpts and re-read them carefully. Then compare and contrast the different forms and types of creative nonfiction by filling in the table below. Write your answers in your notebook.

Reading Passage	Type/Form of Creative Nonfiction	Description/Literary Elements Used
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

ASSIGNMENT

Directions: Make a reflection essay about you and birthplace, or a travelogue that shares the fun of exploring exciting places of your town or city, or a blog that showcases the beauty of place. Choose only one creative nonfiction work. See to it that you depend on the truth as the main substance of your work, then add a dash and sprinkling of artful storytelling here and there to craft a written work worthy of the label “literature.” Write your composition in your notebook.

*Rubrics

5 – Correct use of language/grammar; appropriate use of creative nonfiction form; presence of words/expressions that express truth; literary in nature about the aspirations, dreams and longings of man; positive views in life

3 – Minor errors on language/grammar; clarity of ideas; presence of words/expressions about the aspirations, dreams and longings of man; positive views in life

1– Major errors on grammar; unclear presentation of ideas; absence of words/expressions about the aspirations, dreams and longings of man; views in life

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Department of Education. (February 2014). K to 12 Senior High School Humanities and Social Sciences Strand – Creative Nonfiction Curriculum Guide.

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Mandela, N. "Long Walk to Freedom"

Dom William Trinity Albert, OSB, "Coping with Cancer"

Alya B. Honasan, "Peace in the Tiger's Nest"

Jose F. Lacaba, "St. Martha's Duckyard"

ANSWER KEY

Pre-Test

1. Blog
2. Autobiography
3. Testimonio
4. True Narrative
5. Travelogue
6. Literary journalism/reportage
7. Reflection essay
8. Personal Narrative

Task 1

1. True narrative
2. Autobiography
3. Reflection essay
4. Travelogue
5. Personal narrative

Task 2

1. **Form/Kind:** Diary Entries
Reasons: Answers vary
2. **Form/Kind:** Memoir
Reasons: Answers vary
3. **Form/Kind:** Literary journalism/reportage
Reasons: Answers vary
4. **Form/Kind:** Personal essay
Reasons: Answers vary
5. **Form/Kind:** Autobiography
Reasons: Answers vary

Post-Test

(Answers vary)

Assignment

(Answers vary)