Writing Creative Nonfiction: An Introduction

Creative nonfiction must come from truth, whether this means your memories, research, interviews, or just your thoughts. But can we trust our memories? Humans are subjective beings, and our interpretation of facts is often what makes the “truth” of writing creative nonfiction so interesting and complicated. What sets creative nonfiction apart from other nonfiction (say, instructions to a microwave) is the use of literary techniques in character development, story, and language. While experts may have varying opinions on what makes a good creative nonfiction piece, it is up to you, the author, to understand what norms or rules exist in the writing world. Just like paintings or any other art form, there are a wide variety of ways to write creative nonfiction, and no single set of rules to follow.

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