

Drew Daly with Project Advisor Kenny Cook

Creative Non-Fiction: A Personal Essay Sequence, “Whispering”

Objectives

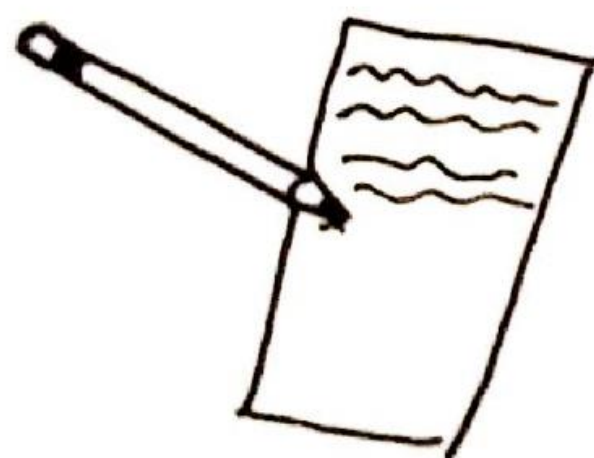


- Develop an understanding of the writing process
- Learn about the craft of the Creative Non-Fiction genre
- Share a narrative about myself

Process



- Generating Exploratory Drafts of possible subjects to understand what I wanted to write about



- Researched what the genre of Creative Non-Fiction entails and what makes a piece successful in the genre

- Meetings with Project Advisor to get feedback and critique on my essay to further refine



- Read books in the genre
 - *Make it Scream, Make it Burn*, Leslie Jamison
 - *Calypso*, David Sedaris

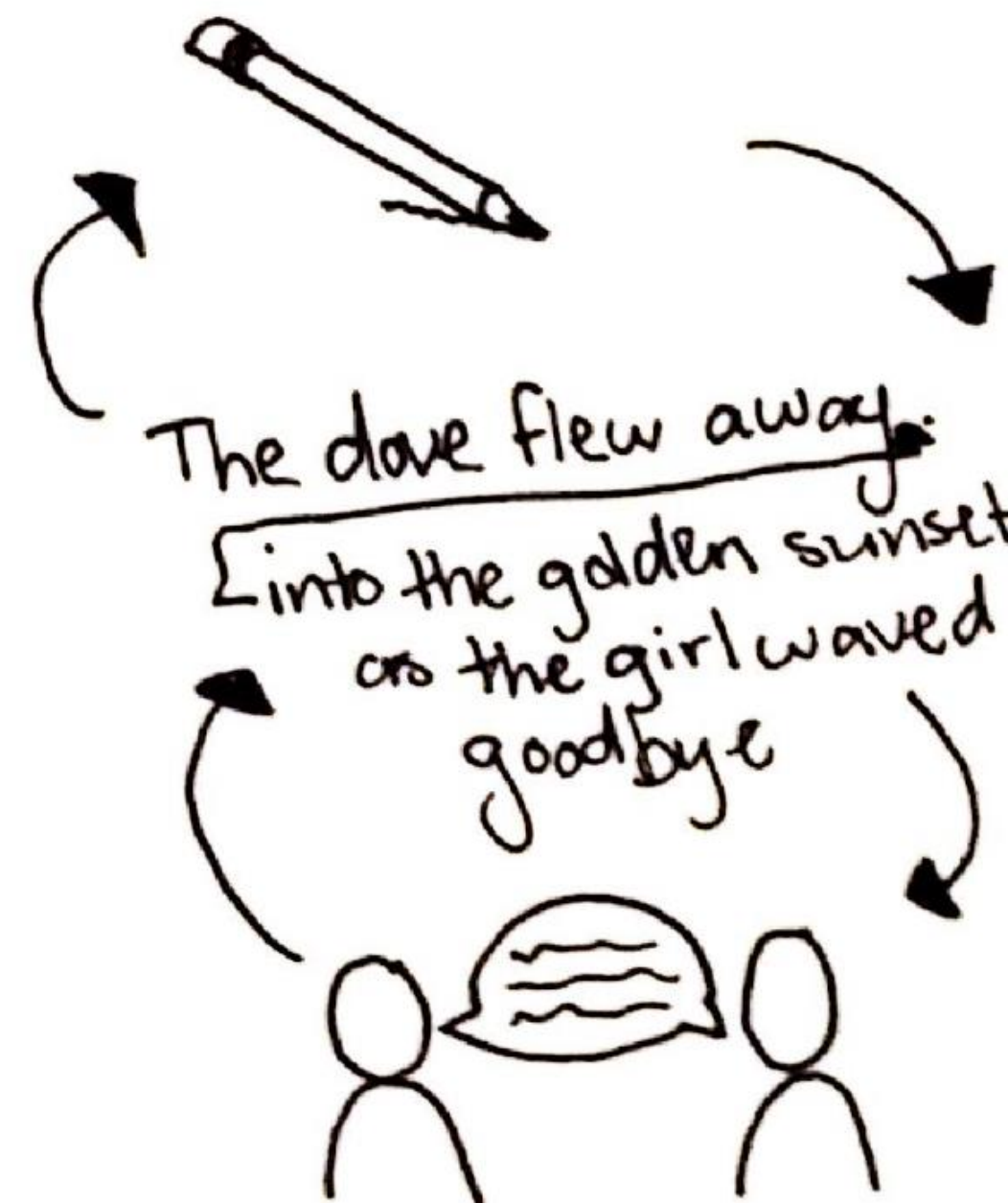
- Continuous refinement and editing of drafts

Writing Process

Exploratory Drafts



Rough Drafts, Edit, Peer Review, Repeat



Final Piece of Work



Excerpt from “Whispering”



The school year started as it typically did for me. I went to class, talked with my friends (the geeks), ate lunch, attempted not to seem too eager to learn about cellular respiration in biology, and tried to fit in with those around me. At first, I never actively tried not to fit in. I just always did my own thing, but the occasional weird look in my direction or off comment started to peel away what little defensive barriers I had at the time. Before, I never had to have a protective shield or thick skin because we were all middle school students, and we were all weird in our own way. Well, apparently, I never got the memo that we were supposed to shed that awkwardness before high school.

Within the first few weeks of school, the glances from passing peers became more frequent, their eyes like daggers in my back. Apparently something was off about me, but nobody seemed to clue me in to what it was. Walking through the freshman hallway started to feel like I was the goofy aardvark at the zoo, performing for the crowd, except instead of cheering, it was fake hellos and words being slung about me amongst my peers. I started the school year never quite noticing that I sounded different from what typical males sound like, or that my interests didn't align with other guys' interests.

Conclusion



- I have a better understanding of the writing process and know how to apply it in future writing
- I plan to continue on with this sequence in the future
- My ability to create emotion through indirect details has become stronger