

CREATIVE NONFICTION RUBRIC

(Source: Starkey, David. *Creative Writing: Four Genres in Brief*.
2nd Edition. Boston: Bedford St. Martins, 2013. Print.)

Organization

- Does the essay begin with an attention-grabbing hook and end in a way that is both surprising and compelling?
- If the author is braiding together several different topics, are those segments clearly focused and connected by well-marked transitions?

Telling the Truth

- Did the author, to the best of their ability, tell the truth in the essay?

Creative Nonfiction as Narrative

- Are the people in the essay, including the narrator, three-dimensional characters rather than two-dimensional characters?
- If the essay contains dialogue, is it short, vivid, and believable?
- Are the settings briefly yet vividly rendered?

The Poetry of Creative Nonfiction

- Does the essay make compelling use of imagery, metaphors, and similes?
- Has the author paid careful attention to the diction, sound, and rhythm of their sentences?

Writing Yourself Into Creative Nonfiction

- Has the author located the “I” in their essay in the most effective and candid authorial position?

Ethics and Edicts

- Has the author double-checked the facts in their essay and steered clear of any unjustified disparagement of people and institutions?
- If the author knows that someone they have written about is going to read the essay, have they gauged that person’s likely response and how the author will be affected by it?

