

## Introduction to Creative Writing (Fiction, Non-Fiction, and Poetry)

### Exercises

1. Write a short (2-3) paragraph imitation of Kafka's "Before the Law." The imitation must address Walla Walla but have nothing to do with Whitman College. Bring two typed printed copies to class. (Due 9/1/11)
2. The Whitman campus is beautiful! So: Find the ugliest spot on Whitman College and write a brief but thorough one-paragraph description. Be sure to use as many sensory details as possible. Be sure too to be specific, interesting, and lively, but also to withhold significant placemarkers -- you'll be reading this thing aloud in class and it'll be our job to figure out the location of your spot.
3. The Whitman campus is so beautiful. Find the most amazing, most wonderful, most beautiful spot on campus and write a brief but thorough one-paragraph description. Be sure to use as many sensory details as possible. Be sure too to be specific, interesting, and lively, but also to withhold significant placemarkers -- you'll be reading this thing aloud in class and it'll be our job to figure out the location of your spot. **Remember: you want to erase yourself and be, as much as it is possible, a kind of inhuman, dumb, recording machine. You want as accurate a picture as you can of the place, and you want to focus on telling details: your goal is to have your peers guess the EXACT LOCATION of your spot on the first guess!** (Due 9/13/11)
4. Optional additional exercise: Take exercise 2, pick your four favorite phrases (ffp), then take ffp #4, follow it w/ ffp#1, then follow them w/ ffps 2 & 3: you now have the first stanza of a poem. Trim it, make it coherent, add another couplet, and bring to class. (Due 9/13/11)
1. Take a notebook wherever you go and record (1) 3 snatches of conversations from strangers that you find particularly fascinating (be attuned to oddities of syntax or phrasing: sometimes things are fascinating not so much b/c of their content but rather because of how they're said). (2) 3 observations, drawn from life, that point out something that is seemingly ordinary but actually tremendously weird. **E-mail these to me no later than 10 am on 10/18/11.** They need not be sent as attachments -- just put them on the body of the e-mail -- but be sure to include your name and the class section on the subject line. (Due 10/18/11)