I. GENERAL PURPOSE/AUDIENCE

Creative writing may take many forms, such as fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry, playwriting, and screenwriting. Creative writers can turn almost any situation into possible writing material. Creative writers have a lot of freedom to work with and can experiment with form in their work, but they should also be aware of common tropes and forms within their chosen style. For instance, short story writers should be aware of what represents common structures within that genre in published fiction and steer away from using the structures of TV shows or movies. Audiences may include any reader of the genre that the author chooses to use; therefore, authors should address potential audiences for their writing outside the classroom. What's more, students should address a national audience of interested readers—not just familiar readers who will know about a particular location or situation (for example, college life).

II. TYPES OF WRITING

- Fiction (novels and short stories)
- Creative non-fiction
- Poetry
- Plays
- Screenplays

Assignments will vary from instructor to instructor and class to class, but students in all Creative Writing classes are assigned writing exercises and will also provide peer critiques of their classmates' work. In a university setting, instructors expect prose to be in the realistic, literary vein unless otherwise specified.

III. TYPES OF EVIDENCE

- Subjective: personal accounts and storytelling; invention
- Objective: historical data, historical and cultural accuracy: Work set in any period of the past (or present) should reflect the facts, events, details, and culture of its time and place.

IV. WRITING CONVENTIONS

Writing will vary depending on the genre and intent of the text. Some forms of poetry (sonnet, sestina, or villanelle, to name a few) have very intricate styles and patterns to follow. (See below for a short list of poetic forms.) Writers may want to submit their work to campus-based publications and contests as well as journals and writing contests beyond campus. Many universities invite professional creative writers to visit their campuses. Students attend readings and craft talks by visiting authors, which allows them to experience a wide, culturally diverse range of styles, genres,

and approaches to creative writing. Creative Writing instructors expect their students to read like writers: to read and study contemporary and classic works of published writers on their own in addition to class assignments.

V. COMMON TERMS AND CONCEPTS

- **Prose** is unlined writing, like the common paragraph, and should be double-spaced with no extra space between paragraphs unless the writer intends to mark a transition in time, place, or subject.
- **Verse** is lined writing, often measured in meter as in poetry (formal or free verse) and is single-spaced.
- **Genre** is the category of writing an author chooses to use as a medium for ideas; some genre-specific terms can be found below.
  - **Poetry**
    Rhyme scheme (feet, iambs, trochees, dactyls, meter)
    Speaker (as opposed to "narrator" in fiction)
    Stanza   Sonnet
    Sestina   Villanelle
  - **Fiction**
    Foreshadowing
    Round/complex or flat characters
    Plot (a sequence of cause and effect or discovery and decision)
    Dialogue
    Characterization
    Narrator (as opposed to "speaker" in poetry)
  - **Plays/ Drama** can include many of the common concepts of fiction writing and may use such terms as: Set/ Lighting/ Stage directions
  - **Creative non-fiction** is a literary, creative way of presenting factual events (including the memoir) and may use some of the following terms:
    Scene   Setting
    Dialogue   Narrative
    Plot   Characterization
    Point of View
- **Style:** the way the author writes, including the elements of voice, tone, diction, and syntax, which all influence the writer's overall style

VI. CITATION STYLE

Creative Writing majors will not have a specific citation style for their writing. Creative Writing classes might use MLA style if they write formal research papers on literary subjects. MLA is commonly used in writing about published literature; therefore, it would relate most closely with creative writing.