

Assessment assignment prior to the course *Creative Fiction and Non-Fiction: Utrecht Writing Workshop*

1. Pick a piece you've written thus far and that you consider to be one of your best pieces (in any genre).
2. If you've received feedback on it: sit with that feedback for a moment and consider:
 - What did the reader tell me? When they were asking for more of this or that, or wondering at a turn of phrase, were they saying something *wasn't* working and needed a turn-around, or that something *was* working, and needed expansion?
 - If you haven't received feedback, re-read your piece through the eyes of a first-time *objective* reader (impossible, I know, I know, but *pretend* as best you can), and ask yourself as you go along: what is this paragraph doing in relation to the piece? Would it work as a singular paragraph, or does it need the rest to make sense, to *echo*? If no, why? If yes, why?
3. Take notes of your thoughts in a document titled **'Reflections on [piece title]'**. **Answer for yourself**:
 - What do you want the piece to do? The perfect most ideal version of your work—what would it give the reader, what knowledge, what understanding, what information, what *emotion*?
 - Locate (and highlight) within your piece: the moments that are aligned with your 'ideal version', and moments that appear to be doing something different.
4. If you have the time and opportunity: open a new document (**add a 'draft 2' to the title**), keep the old one next to it. Re-write the piece afresh, with one eye on the old document. Some sentences, you'll find, will stay the same. Some will become something different altogether. If time is in short supply: work within a copy of the old doc itself (**also, 'draft 2'**), and focus on re-writing the sections highlighted as 'needs work'.
5. Reflect on the changes you have made: what did you aim to achieve? What are therefore your learning objectives? [*i.e.*, how to increase reading speed, how to slow down reading speed, how to heighten visual imagery, how to make dialogue realistic, etc.] Take notes of that too, and add these to the 'Reflections' document.
6. Email all three documents (1. 'Orig [title]'; 2. '[Title] draft_2'; '3. Reflections on [title]') to Els Stronks (e.stronks@uu.nl).