

Advance homework for **Creative Boot Camp: A Craft Lab and Writing Workshop**

Hello intrepid participants! We are so excited to work with you!

In advance of our week together, we have just a bit of advance homework: first, please identify the story you are wanting to work on over our week together. This could be a piece of writing you have already begun, something you've been working on for years, or just something you have in your mind that you'd like to get out of you. Whatever it is, please then give some thought to what craft obstacles might be in your way in writing or completing the story. Can you identify what struggles you are having or might have when trying to find a shape for the story on the page? Some examples of craft obstacles might be: difficulties working in the third or first person, difficulties working with multiple time periods, difficulties giving interiority for multiple characters (or just one)... They can be big or small! Just try, if you can, to stay away from purely emotional difficulties – i.e., “I will have a hard time telling this story because I am too close to the person I am writing about” – but rather try to identify how the emotional problem might manifest in the actual crafting the writing on the page.

Once you have written down the craft problem you have identified (this can also be something you are particularly interested in focusing on and learning more about, even if it's not something that is directly happening in your writing yet), please send to both Chris (cadrian@chla.usc.edu) and Nellie (ngh2101@columbia.edu) no later than Sunday, April 1st, by 5pm.

(In the event that you register late for our course, please bring this assignment with you in hard copy.)

Thank you and looking forward to meeting all of you!

All best,

Nellie & Chris