

In *Short-Form Creative Writing*, Hummel and Lenox propose that short-form writing accomplishes the following:

- Distills narrative to its most concentrated form
- Creates a liminal space that blends, challenges, circumvents, or rejects the norms and expectations of literary convention
- Fuels innovation and ingenuity through the contained energy of constraint
- Flirts with the ephemeral and embraces brevity
- Delights in the irreverent, subversive, and contrarian nature of language
- Remains aware of the ticking clock, the limits of time and attention, the approaching end of the page
- Combines the spaciousness of prose with the lyricism of poetry
- Slips past barriers, boundaries, and borderlines
- Invites the reader to collaborate in the making of meaning through evocative images and figurative language
- Insists on silence, white space, and subtext
- Asserts that less can be more
- Leverages the power of the small, the overlooked, the underrated

Use these questions to provoke your study of short-form writing:

- How does the piece concentrate the language to create a particular effect?
- How does it challenge conventions or expectations?
- How does it use subtext?
- Does it examine or celebrate something underrated?
- How does it expect the reader to fill in gaps or make sense of things?
- How does it mix genres?
- In what ways does it act subversive?