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| **Student Name** | Enter your name here. |
| **Course** | Enter your course name here. |
| **Student Number** |  Enter your student number here.  |

Activity Three: Foundations of Creative Writing

Creative writing is not just storytelling. It gives a voice to your favourite character in your favourite film and shapes the sharpest satire in a comedy podcast; it’s the life-force in the book you can’t put down and in the poem that haunts you. For some of us, creative writing is simply about expressing our feelings, or inventing worlds to escape the dullness or difficulty of everyday life, but creative writing is a skill we can learn and develop, just like playing the piano or sculpting clay. Creative writing is rigorous and playful and experimental, strengthening and expanding our imagination; it helps us to pay closer attention to the world around us, to communicate clearly, to expand our empathy and understanding, and to increase the control we have over the language we use.

Some of you may have a long-established passion for creative writing; some of you may be terrified of writing creatively; some of you may be more interested in reading literature than in attempting to write it. We believe that whatever your experience of creative writing to date, a rigorous, reflective creative writing practice forms a critical part of your English studies. To get you started, we’d like you to write 300 words addressing the questions below (roughly 100 words per question). There are no right answers, but we’d like you to do some research if you can to inform and expand your thinking. (Try the resources here, here and here as starting points). We want you to think critically about the role creative writing plays in the study of literature, in your own life and in society.

Your response will form the basis of the seminar sessions of *Foundations of Creative Writing* in Week 1, and you will be expected to contribute to the discussion.

1. **What do you understand by the term ‘creative writing’? (You might want to think about what you don’t consider to be ‘creative writing’ as a way in)**Click here to begin your answer (100 words)
2. **Why write? Why do you think we include creative writing in your degree programme?**

Click here to begin your answer (100 words)

1. **What benefits might emerge from developing a creative writing practice? How might writing creatively in a variety of forms (e.g. poetry, short stories, screenplay or autobiography) help in your study of literature, drama and language?**

Click here to begin your answer (100 words)