

Lesson: Start with Your Why

Take Action

1. Select the story you wish to tell.
2. Consider the main “why”s in creative nonfiction: awareness, action, perception, and inspiration.
3. Write down your reason(s) for sharing your story.

Lesson: Key Idea: Looking Inward and Outward

Take Action

1. Connect your story to the time, place, and cultural climate from which you’re writing.
2. Identify the emotional tone you wish to use, such as humor, anger, tension, or joy.

SKILLSHARE

Lesson: Key Idea: When Truth Matters

Take Action

1. Collect your memories of the events in your story.
2. List 1-3 other people who shared your experience.
3. Define your boundaries between what you will and won't share.

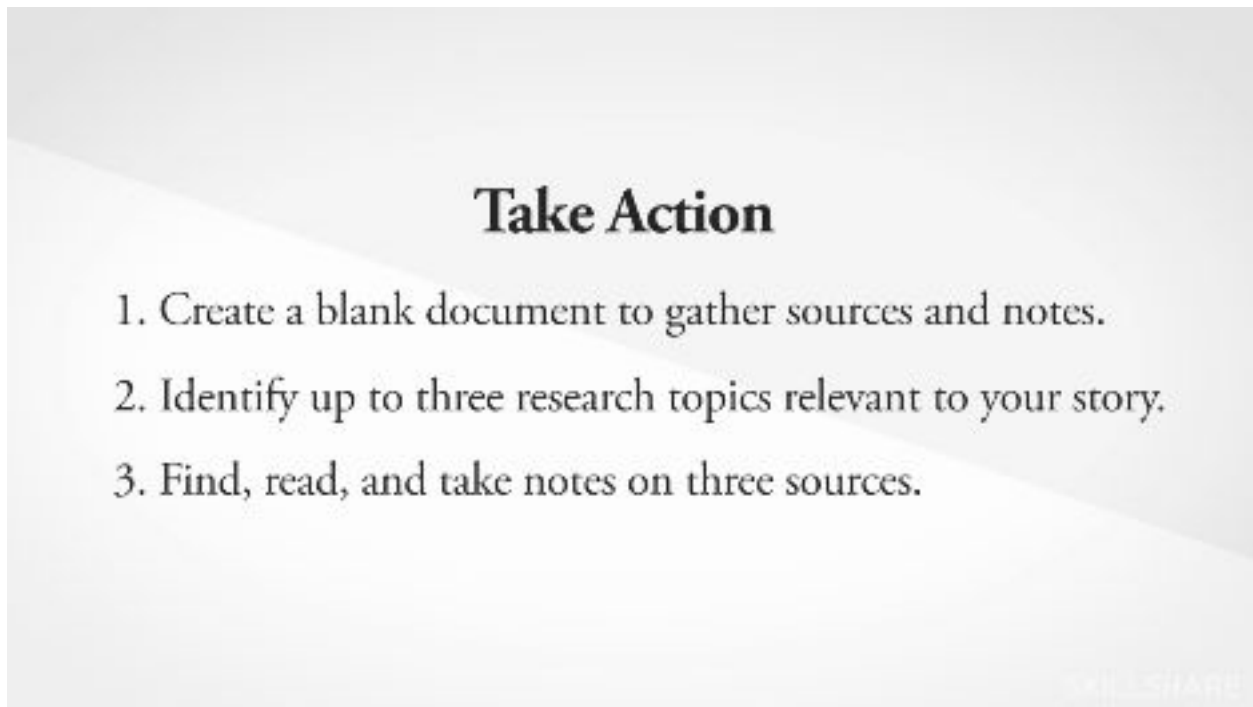
SKILLSHARE

Key Idea: Read to Know What Works

Take Action

1. Print an essay to analyze.
2. Ask craft questions while reading: emotional tone, boundaries, frameworks, rhythm, and sentence.
3. Identify the “inward” aspect and “outward” aspect of the essay.

Lesson: Conducting Research

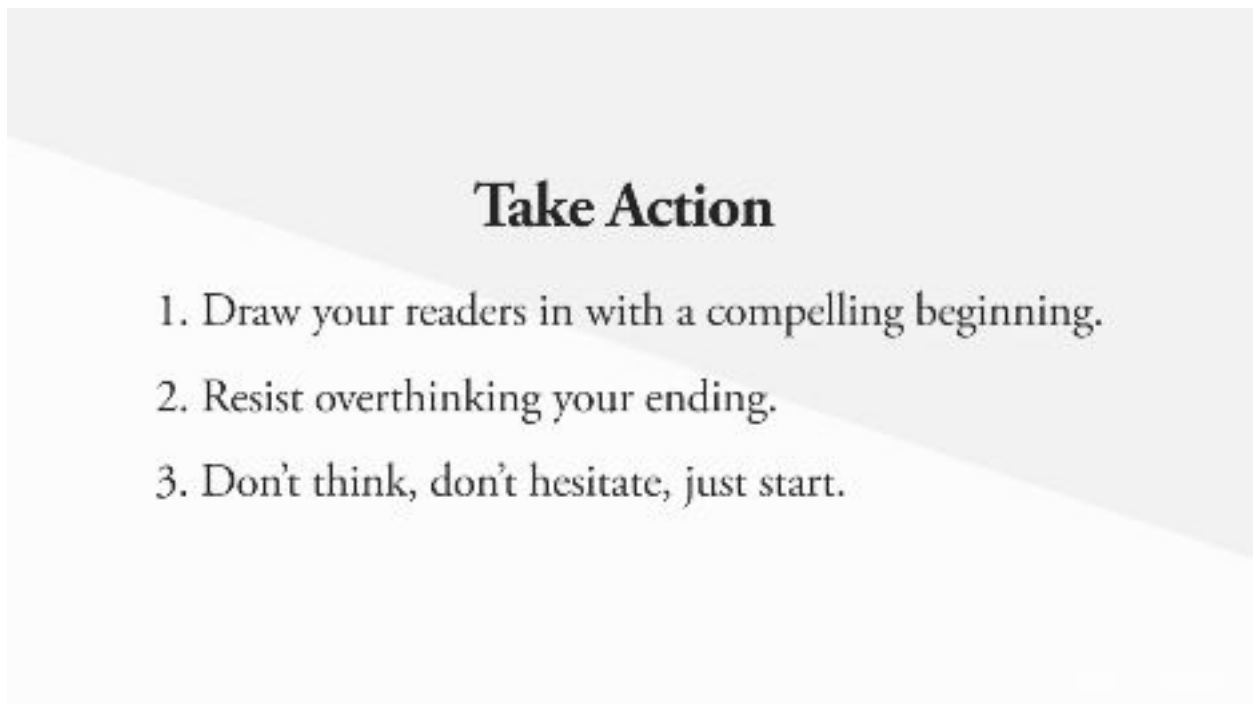


Take Action

1. Create a blank document to gather sources and notes.
2. Identify up to three research topics relevant to your story.
3. Find, read, and take notes on three sources.

SKILLSHARE

Lesson: Write Your First Draft



Take Action

1. Draw your readers in with a compelling beginning.
2. Resist overthinking your ending.
3. Don't think, don't hesitate, just start.

Lesson: Revise Your Work

Take Action

1. Read your work aloud to yourself.
2. Download the revision worksheet in the class resources.
3. After 1-2 rounds, let your work be done.

Lesson: Getting Published

Take Action

1. Find three publications that fit your style.
2. Write your author bio and cover letter.
3. Submit your work!