

### Week 14 RAW Prompts

For each of the questions posed compose your response in the box below the question. Make sure to take note of the assigned word count for each. For criteria of evaluation, make sure to review the “Submission Policy” for this assignment on pp. 4-5 & 7 of our course syllabus.

Make sure to **SAVE** this document to your computer *before* you upload your completed RAW Prompts to Canvas. If you simply download this work sheet, fill it out without SAVING, and upload, the sheet will be blank. If this happens, it may impact your grade. So, **make sure to save your work often!**

1. As the story goes, American writer Ernest Hemingway took the Rorschach inkblot test (for more info look [here](#)), which is said to reveal personality traits. Even though there are no right answers to this test, Hemingway saw up to ten times as many things in each picture than most others. Yes, he had an imagination, but he also reached out to touch and turn the inkblots themselves: he claimed that writing taught him to reach out and touch things we have to describe. What does this tell us about the nature of writing? (at least 150 words)

When drawing, I often will hold the object to understand it better and see it from all angles even if I am only going to draw it from one. This is because understanding how something works from all angles can better help us identify its attributes and story. With writing, a story can be about Jack and Susan and might only be written from Susan’s perspective, however, if you do not understand Jack’s then you cannot usually tell a less intriguing story. This summer, I shot a short-film about five different characters and their relationships to one another. When writing any scene, even if it was just viewing a single character, I had to keep the other characters and their relationships in mind in order to tell a more full story. He could have also meant “reach out and touch things” as a metaphor for allowing oneself to feel their emotions and experiences in order to recreate them. In this way, I think it is extremely important for writers to keep from dissociating in hard times, but to lean in and embrace whatever feeling or feelings are coming up.

2.

2. Reflect on the statements, “Writing is commitment” and “Writing is exploration.” (at least 150 words)

“Writing is commitment” reminds me a lot of Stephen King’s mindset. He would get up on a schedule and put in 8-10 hours of writing every day and saw this as his commitment. Some see it as a vocational commitment and some see it as an artistic commitment. Some are less *committed* to writing and it is more of a *compulsion*.

“Writing is exploration” reminds me of more “artsy” artists. Music producer Rick Rubin talks a lot about this idea in his work and I think lives by this motto to an extent. He said in his book *The Creative Act* that a piece of art (he means any kind of art) is like a journal entry. That its lasting or being timeless isn’t what matters since everything fades anyway, what truly matters is that it is an honest reflection of the artist at the time. I find this view is a far easier one to make art under because it takes off so much of the outer pressure.

I think the way I go about making art is a combination of these two. I also put a lot of consistent time into art, but try to keep the actual artistic process about exploration and not hold things too tightly.

3.