

Collaborative Creation: Challenges & Logistics of Launching a Fully Online Graduate Writing Program

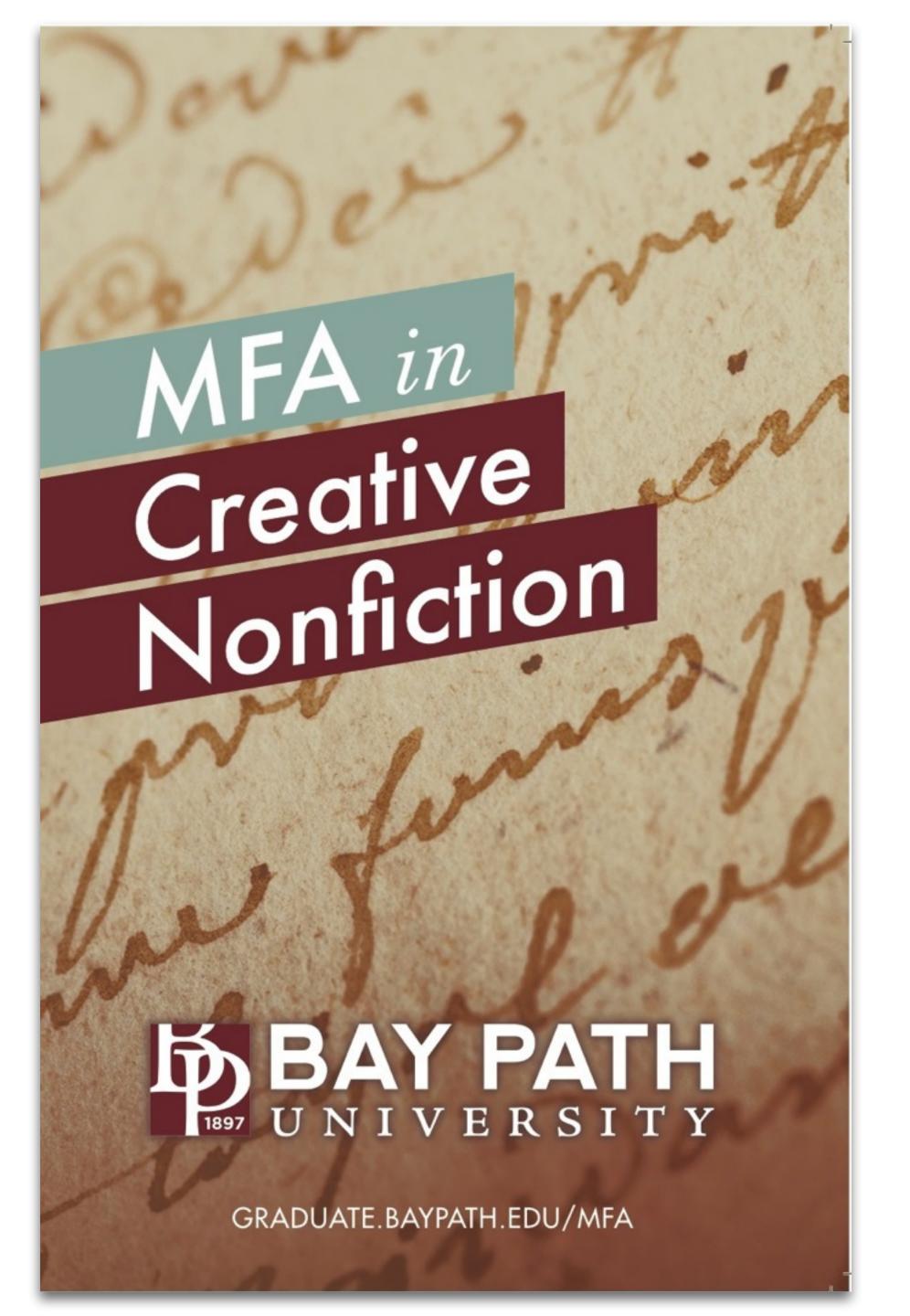
Leanna James Blackwell

Mary Wiseman











Director's Blog: MFA in Creative Nonfiction at BPC

A conversation about the art and practice of writing

Wednesday, October 8, 2014

Breakfast with the Muse: guest post

I'm a member of a national writing community of women writers, She Writes. She Writes is a publishing organization, a website where guest writers blog and members form groups, and a place for writers in all genres to share resources and work. The organization sends out a weekly newsletter and also offers editing and other services for writers. It's a fantastic community and a good place for aspiring and established women writers to network. Recently, I enjoyed this post by Jill Jepson, "The Delicate Balance of the Writing Life," on her blog "Breakfast with the Muse." In the spirit of muses (and breakfast!), I'm sharing it this morning with you. Make yourself a good cup of coffee or tea and enjoy.

[BREAKFAST WITH THE MUSE] THE DELICATE BALANCE OF THE WRITING LIFE



Welcome to my new Breakfast with the Muse blog. I'm delighted to be posting on She Writes and hope you find this blog as helpful and inspiring as I've found other She Writes blogs.

As I was thinking about what I could write for my very first Breakfast with the Muse post, it struck me that every bit of writing advice I've ever given was true only half the time. The other half of the time, the opposite advice was true.

- Learn to write fast to increase productivity—but also learn to write slowly for excellence and grace.
- Write every day—except when you need rest and space, then don't write every day.

Blog Archive

- ▼ 2014 (15)
 - ▼ October (1)

Breakfast with the Muse: guest post

- September (3)
- August (1)
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- June (1)
- May (1)
- March (1)
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About the Director



Leanna James Blackwell





Essayist, documentary playwright, and short-story writer with a passion for books, theatre, and the art of living a creative and compassionate



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MFA-Public Preview Course





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Welcome to the Bay Path College **Master of Fine Arts in Creative Nonfiction**

Tell your story and earn a master's degree without traveling farther than your keyboard

A unique, no-residency program designed to help talented writers find their creative voice through the means of expressive nonfiction.



Hello, I am Leanna James Blackwell, Director of the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Nonfiction here at Bay Path College. We are looking for writers who have a passion for telling their personal stories or the true stories of others.

Helping you become a better writer is the first part of the journey. The other is how our MFA prepares you for life after graduation.

Our professional tracks in publishing or teaching guide you in crossing the bridge from your studies to the world of career. Our MFA program is completely online, meaning you can complete it from wherever you are in the world, and whenever it best suits you.

> We welcome you to learn more about our MFA. Send us your questions in an email or give us a call.

> > We look forward to hearing from you.

Take a look at a sample online course and see how you'll interact with faculty and course content.



Click to enter our preview course.





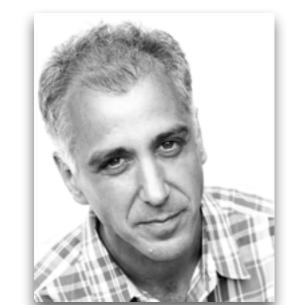






















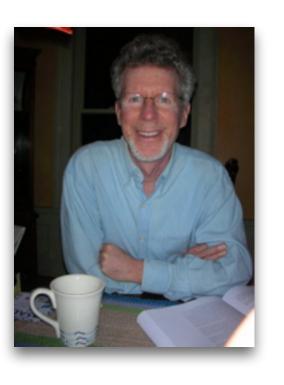


















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View Video Interviews with Faculty and Featured Authors

Mary Wiseman

Assigned readings and writing exercises:

Readings, writing prompts and instructions, and multimedia will be posted in each weekly module. All modules will be available at the beginning of each course so you can see where we are going throughout the course. As we move through the semester, your priority will be to read the contents of one module per week and complete the assigned readings and writing exercises.

Jan 31 at 5:04pm

Instructional Steps:

- 1. Listen to and watch the videos of faculty writers (and assigned authors) below
- 2. Read and think about their stories: what the writers do, how they do it, and where.
- Choose one of the authors for your response.
- Post a thoughtful response to the following questions:
- a) What new understanding about writing or creativity did you take away from the experience of viewing this author's video? Describe in detail.
- b) What three questions would you ask this writer if you had the opportunity to discuss writing with her?

Interview with faculty author Ann Hood

Faculty author Ann Hood that published the best-selling books Somewhere Off the Coast Of Maine, The Knitting Circle, The Red Thread, and the memoir Comfort: a Journey Through Grief, among many others. Comfort was named one of the top ten nonfiction books of 2008 by Entertainment Weekly and was a New York Times Editor's Choice. In this video we sit with Ann and discuss how she tells her stories.

The Red Thread is the story of six couples adopting babies from China. It is also the story of Maya, who runs the adoption agency after losing her baby daughter. And it is the story of six women in China who are forced to give up a baby girl they love. Chinese legend tells us that we are connected to our children by an invisible red thread. No matter how tangled or frayed it becomes, our child is waiting for us at the other end. Who is at the end of your red thread? Maya asks each couple.



Ann Hood, Faculty Author & Writer

Click to download a transcript of this video

Listen to faculty writer, cookbook and memoir author, and media personality T. Susan Chang's NPR review of On the Noodle Road

&T. Susan Chang & is a freelance food writer, critic, and cookbook author. She regularly reviews cookbooks for NPR.org, The Boston Globe, and Eat Your Books, a cookbook indexing website, and contributes to the National Public Radio's Kitchen Window & series and New England Public Radio.



On the Noodle Road is one attempt to answer an old chestnut: Did Marco Polo really bring noodles from China to Italy? If not, where did they really come from? Or — to put it another way — from what point along the storied byways of the Silk Road did that humble paste of flour and water first spring into its multifarious existence?

Click to listen to cookbook author, writer & faculty T. Susan Chang's NPR All Things Considered review of On the Noodle Road &















Collaboration Tools



Book Talks







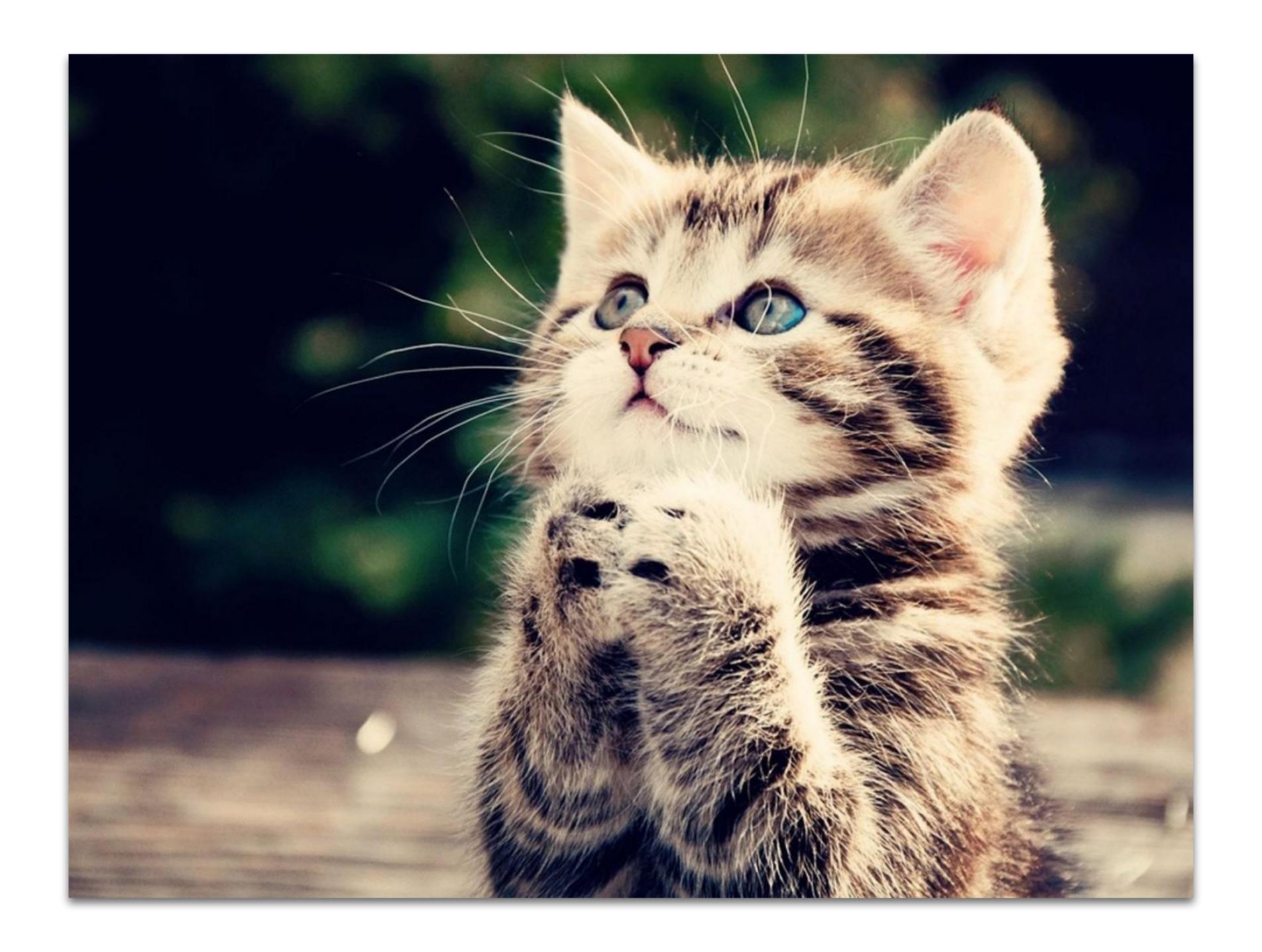














Welcome to MFA 615 Mentorship Lab at Bay Path University

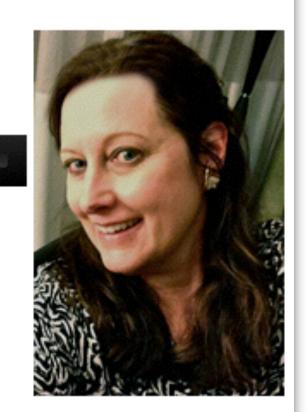


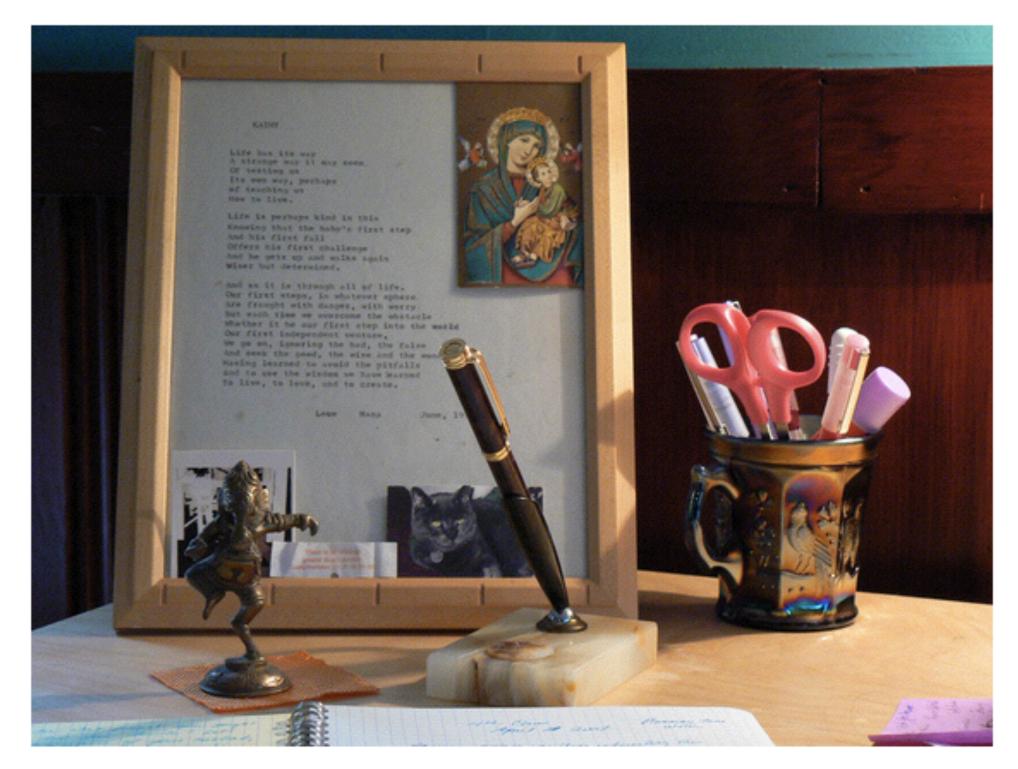
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Minimize embedded content

this is a media comment

with Kate Whouley





My desk--or the neatest corner of it! In the frame is a poem my grandmother wrote for me when I was in college. (She typed it too. She was an executive secretary!) The prayer card is for my mom, who was the inspiration for Remembering the Music. The big gray cat is Egypt, aka The Cat-in-Charge in Cottage for Sale. Ganesh, the Hindu elephant god and the remover of obstacles sits atop



Announcements

Term year 2014 term FA sub...

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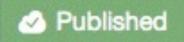
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Introductions: Why We Write







Jan 8 at 3:28pm



In the "reply" box below, please write a brief (100-200 word) description of your reading and writing life (feel free to use text, audio, images, or video). I will post mine, too. I've also included a few videos from some of my favorite authors to help guide you and give you some inspiration.

Due by 8/24 at 11:59pm

Tom Perrotta:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1_TYVUtEqM @



Margaret Atwood:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SXEXX8bkLDI @



Tobias Wolff:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjOP3t4Vczs 2







Leanna James Blackwell



Oct 6, 2014

As promised in my announcement welcoming you to Week 7, here are photos of my "neighborhood" (the Bay Path campus) walk to and from the campus cafe. Each time, I experience, like Gornick, a landscape of encounters against which I "measure daily the immutable force of all I connect with only on the street, and only when it sees me coming." Were you surprised when Gornick revealed that she missed "terribly" the woman who had died, the woman she had never spoken to except in brief moments on the street?

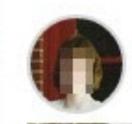


At the campus cafe.

On the way back to my office (just beyond the trees).

Edited by Leanna James Blackwell on Oct 7 at 1:14pm







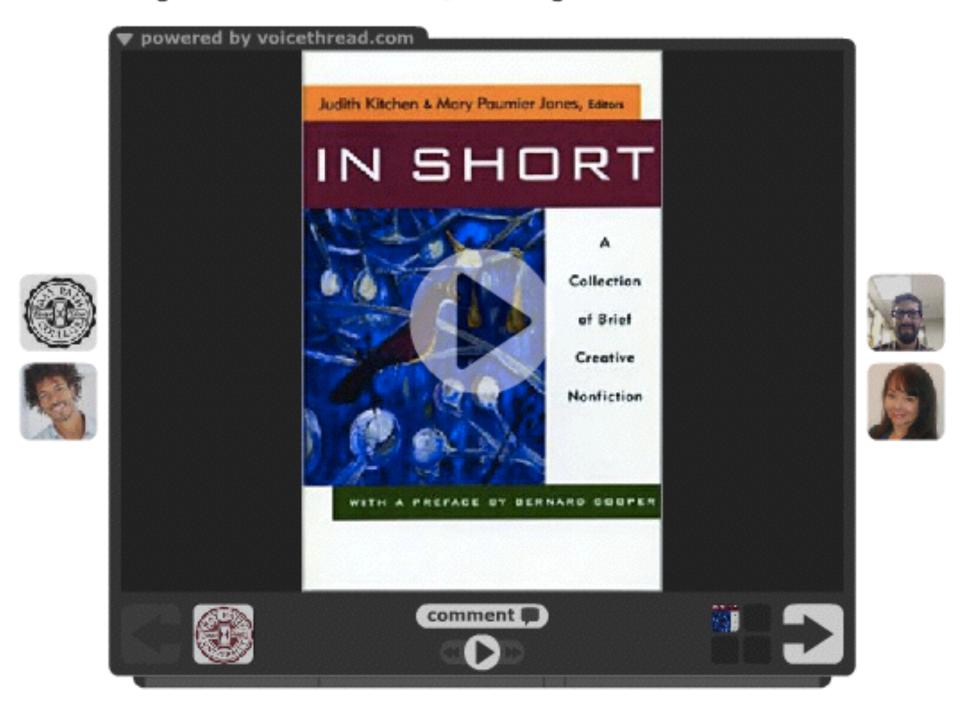
Oct 7, 2014







How do Book Talks work?



- 1. Click the play button to listen to what classmates are saying about Dakota, by Kathleen Norris.
- 2. Or, click on any of the faces, to listen in on the contributions.
- 3. In order to add your own comments, you will need to create a free VoiceThread Account ₺.
 - You will be prompted for an email account.
 - Activation is required, via the email account, you provide VoiceThread.



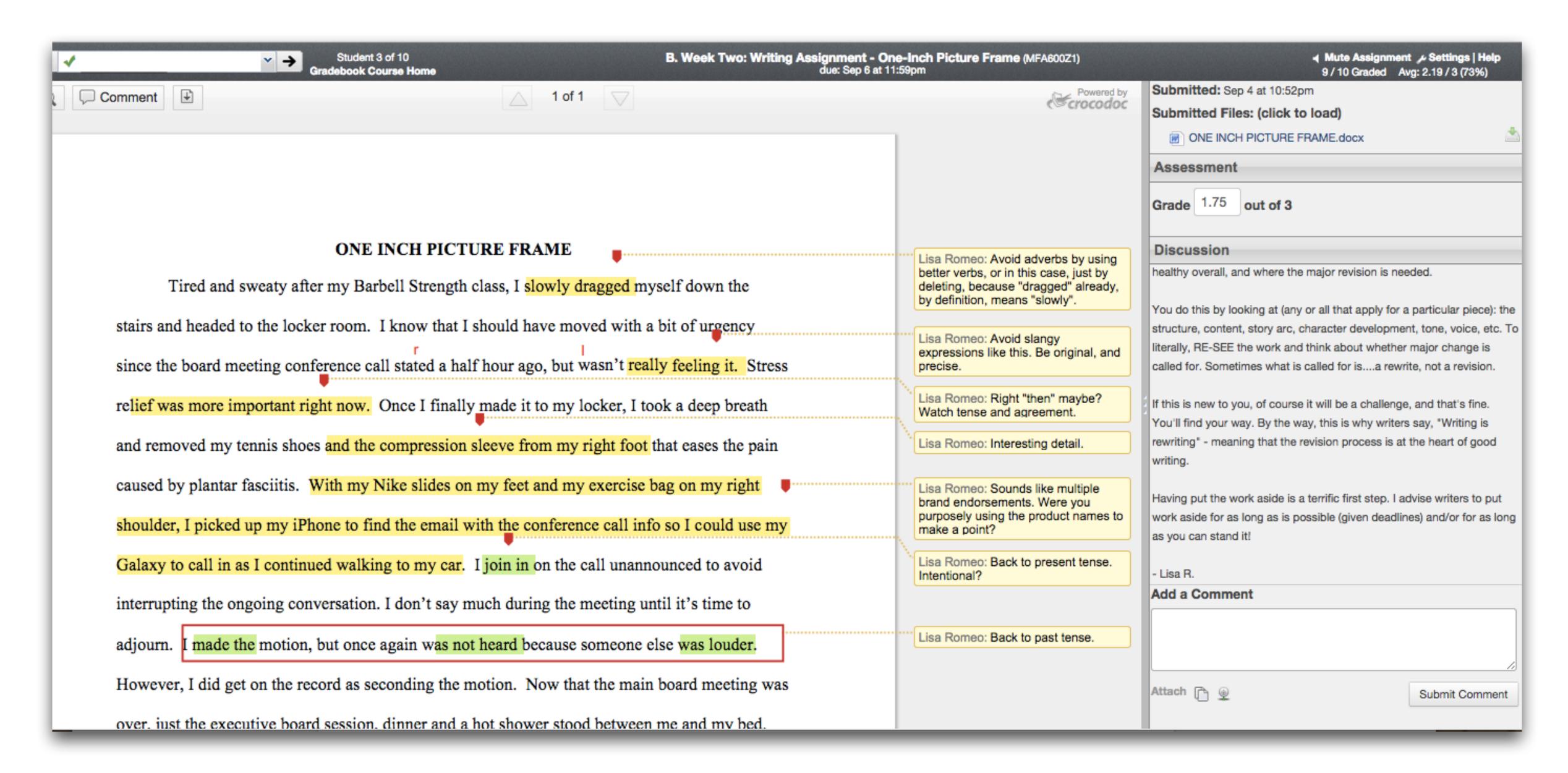
Click here to find step-by-step answers to your basic VoiceThread questions

- How-to leave a comment on VoiceThread ₽

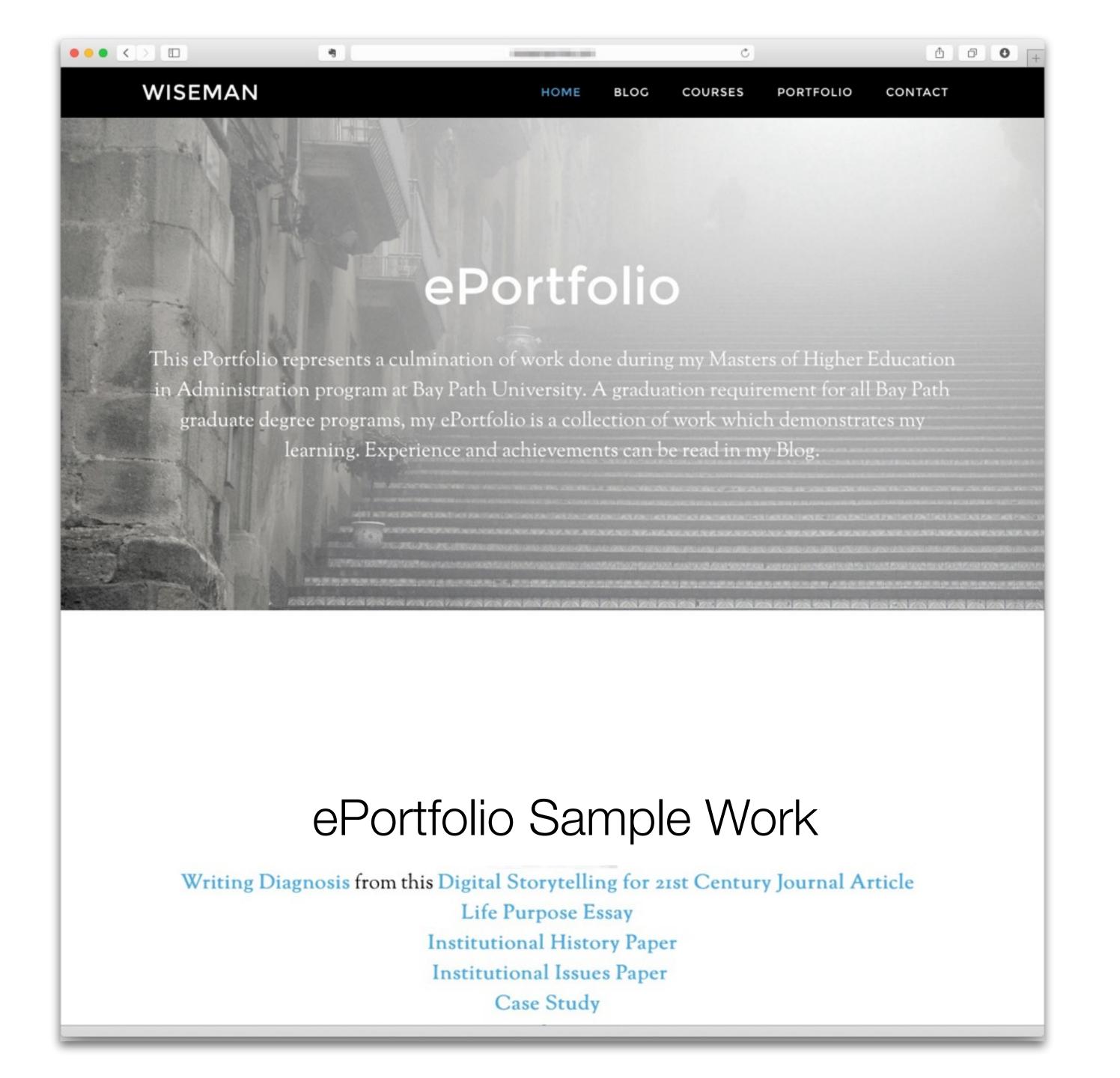




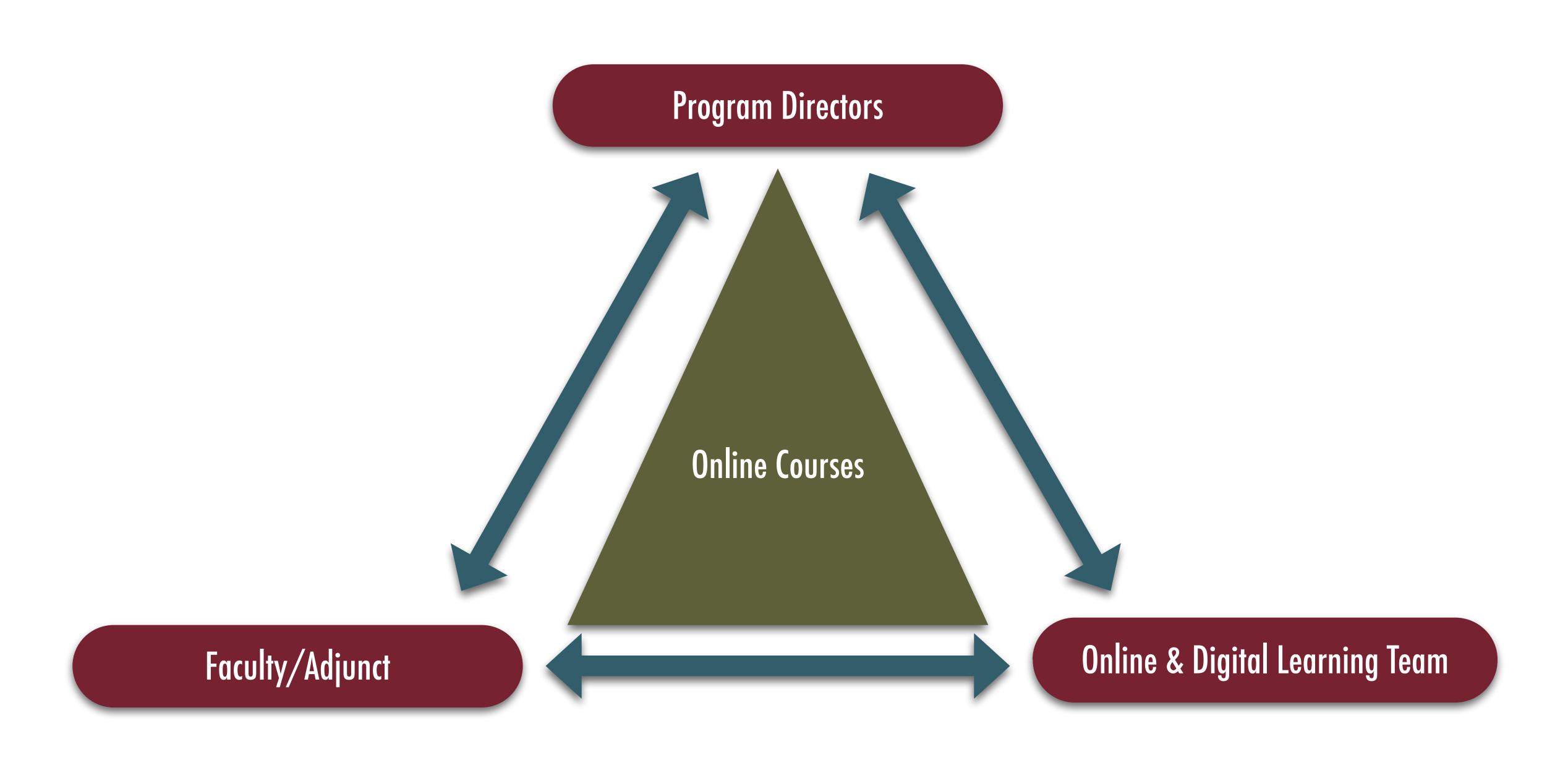








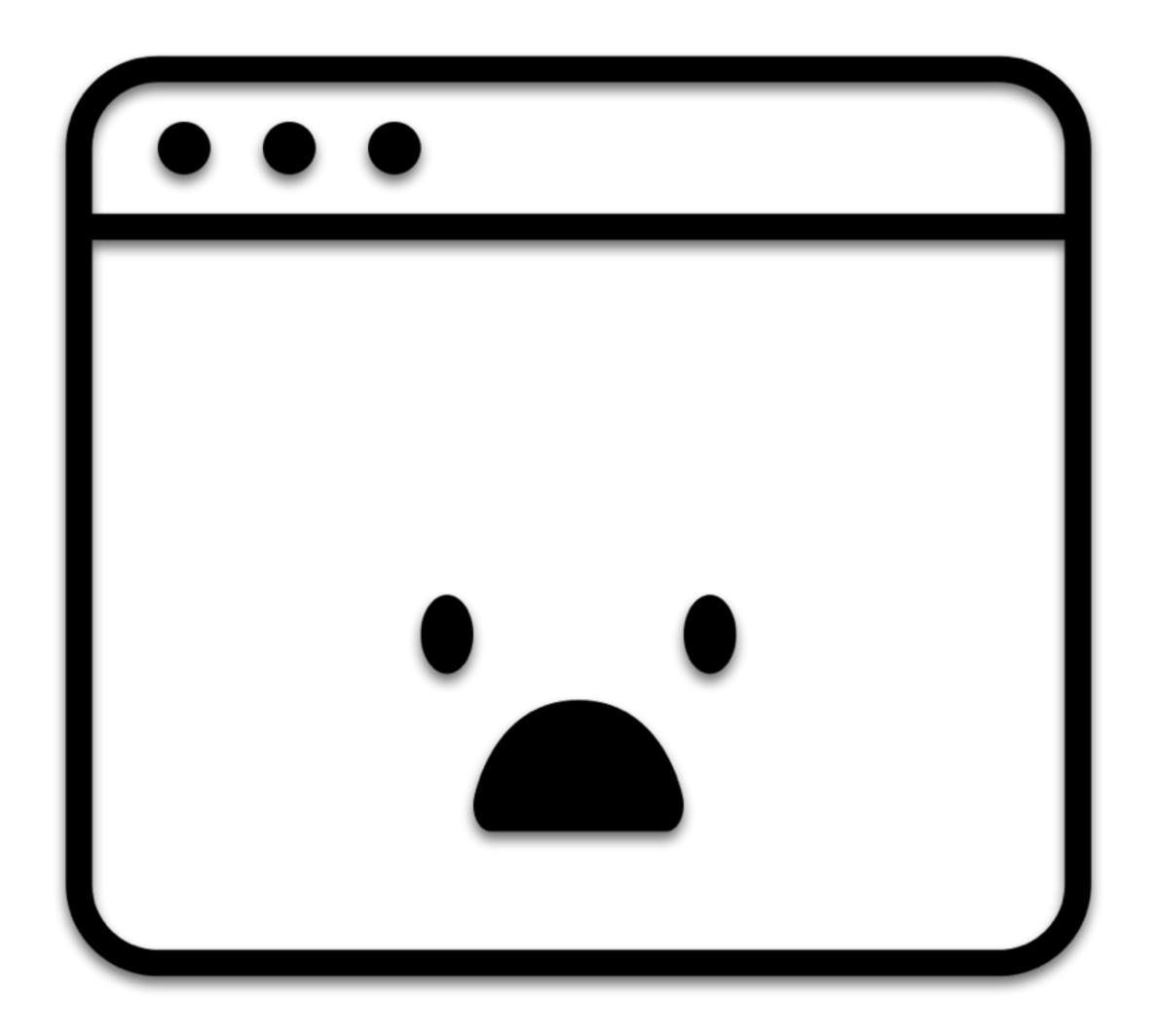






Students logged in...





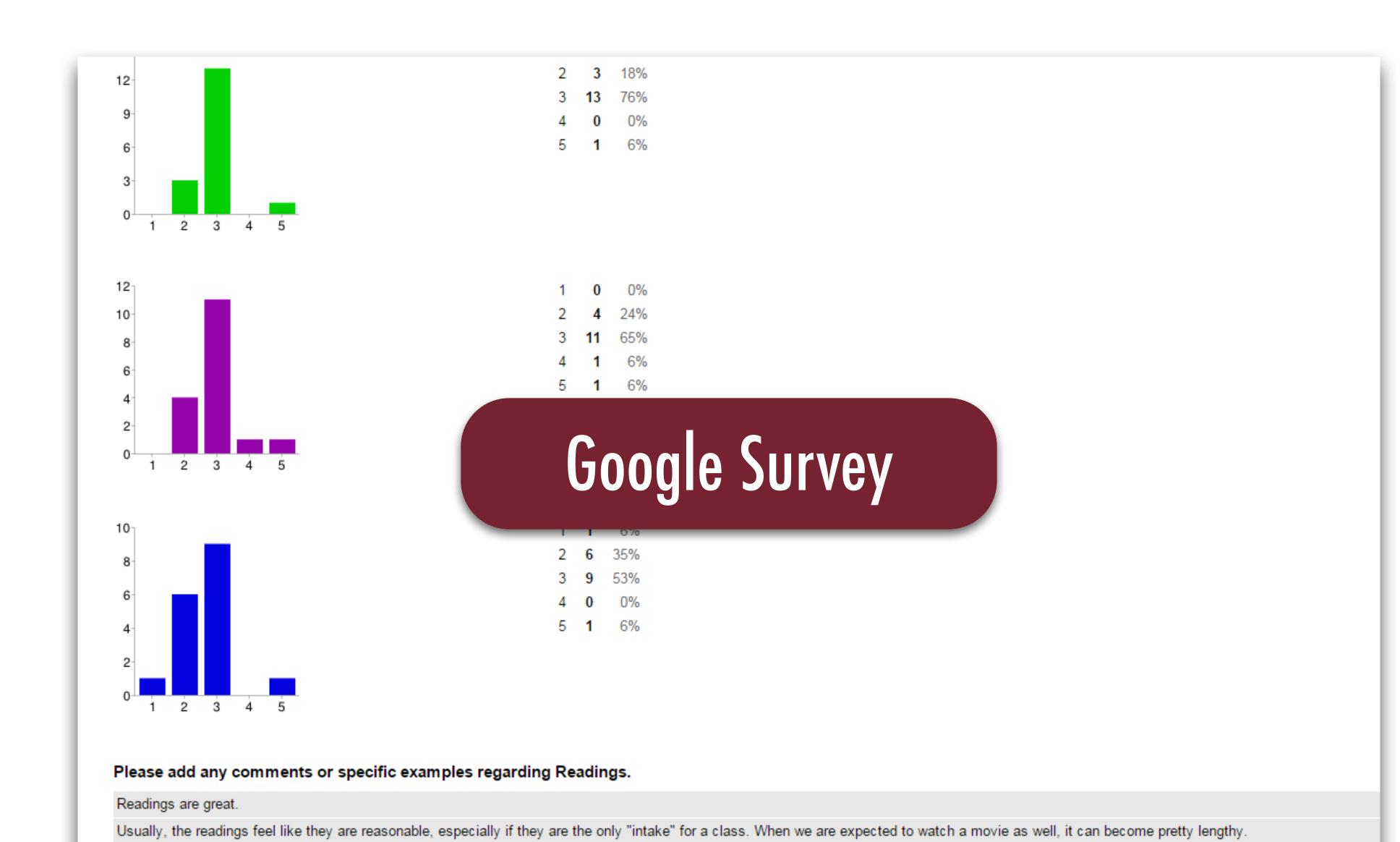


Feedback

Flexibility

Fine-Tuning





We are using excellent books - let's read more for examples of the different types of CNF. Not always to dissect them, but to give us ideas for techniques to incorporate into our longer pieces.

Trailblazing



Q&A



Collaborative Creation: Challenges & Logistics of Launching a Fully Online Graduate Writing Program

20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

ONLINE LEARNING CONSORTIUM INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2014

FOLLOW US! #ALN14

OCT. 29-31 • WALT DISNEY WORLD SWAN AND DOLPHIN RESORT • ORLANDO, FL





Presenters: Leanna James Blackwell and Mary Wiseman Date: October 30, 2014



Leanna James Blackwell, Director, MFA in Creative Nonfiction ljblackwell@baypath.edu

Mary Wiseman, Online Course Builder mwiseman@baypath.edu

MFA Website - http://tinyurl.com/kzw5beo

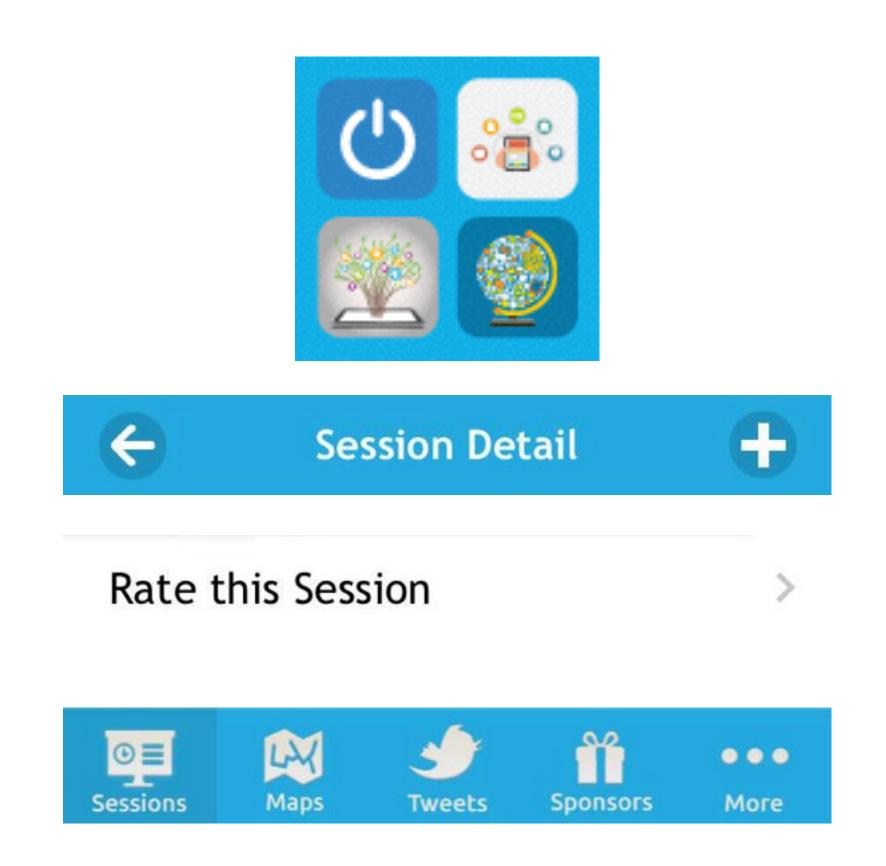
FaceBook - http://tinyurl.com/ldzc9af

Director's Blog - http://tinyurl.com/k2ffdhg

Summer in Ireland - http://tinyurl.com/o5jlp8k



Session Evaluations



As a part of our "green" initiatives, OLC is no longer using paper forms for session evaluations. Please use the OLC Conference mobile app to evaluate this session. Navigate to this session listing, then click on "Rate this Session".

Feedback

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Fine-Tuning

