

# MEMOIR WRITING & MY CLIMATE STORY

**Your story and how to make it resonate**

# MEMOIR WRITING: TIPS FROM MARY KARR

- 1) Paint a physical reality that engages all senses—use a singular place filled with believable people, things, and places.
- 2) Let your readers *know* where they are—setting details should include time, place, season, etc.
- 3) Your backstory should have emotional conflict—What is at stake?

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4) Your inner thoughts and wonderings need to matter—relate these aspects of your narrative to what is at stake.

5) Show your survival and tenacity within the struggle...NOT just the struggle.

6) Love your setting, yourself, and the people represented.

# MEMOIR WRITING: THINGS TO AVOID

1) Write like you speak; do not use grandiose phraseology that seems stilted on the page.

2) Lying!

3) Trying to sound a way you *think* your writing should be; instead, let your writing be your writing as is!

## REVIEW YOUR CLIMATE STORY STARTERS...

Select which written entry you are going to work on, except for your poetry, which we will do a separate analysis of...

\*Review the tips from Carr and my list of what to avoid; complete an edit/rewrite.

# EDITING

1) Read your writing aloud! Best editing tool there is!

2) Use Karr's checklist to edit and revise your work.

3) Finalize your work for workshopping with peers next week. It is best to have a typed draft for next week.