



33rd Annual Nevada Writers Hall of Fame

THE VIRTUAL VERSION

Poetry & Prose: A Nevada Writers Hall of Fame Writers Workshop
Instructor: Christopher Coake

Welcome!

I'm so glad all of you can participate in my writing workshop next week. I'm always thrilled to work with writers, no matter their level of experience, and I've got some fun and thought-provoking exercises and conversations planned for our time.

I'd like for you to write a little bit in advance of the workshop, if you can. I am obsessed with the ways in which writers can make use of variation in *point of view* (POV). POV means the perspective via which a story is told: first person, third person, and lots of variations thereof. We'll talk about some of the technical details of POV in our workshop, but to get us started, I'd like you to write in response to the following prompt:

A character (I'll leave details about them for you to invent as necessary) enters an empty house.

—Write a paragraph about the first room they enter, using the *first person* (using "I").

—Then write a paragraph about the second room they enter, using the *third person* (using "he," "she," or "they," as appropriate).

—Then write a paragraph about which choice of POV felt more *natural* to you. Was either one easier to conceive? To imagine your way into? Why, do you suppose?

Just have these paragraphs at the ready when our Zoom workshop begins. I'll ask you to read from them during our first hour together.

Thanks, and let me know if you have any questions between now and then!

Best,
Chris Coake

(cjcoake@unr.edu)