

The Lost Napkin Agenda

Tuesday, Feb 15

1. Jin's set up on the history of the Dirty War in Argentina
2. in Project Groups
3. Read each others' outlines. Look for gaps, lacunae, contradictions, etc.
4. Write a note to each author about your reading of the outline.
5. Discuss Transitions between scenes: consider both "material transitions" – places where the narrator provides movement from one thing to the next – and empty transitions – places where the text simply switches. What sort of material helps the reader to move from one thing to the next. What does a scene have to accomplish in order to lead up to an empty transition? What happens in that empty part for the reader and what can the writer do to control the reader's experience of the transition? When the reader reaches the other "side" of the transition, what greets her? How does the movement from one scene to another create meaning? When do scenes seem juxtaposed and when do they simply flow?
6. Examine some different kinds of transition that will occur in the works that your group members are working on. Discuss how transitions might affect the rhythm, flow, pace, and structure of the story overall.
7. Using your own outline, select one scene that you are having trouble with—it may be plot trouble, character confusion, voice or tone. Write a short paragraph explaining your confusions.
8. Trade this one scene with someone else's troubled scene. Write a scene for them, based on the outline information you have.
9. Groups should discuss the work they'll be bringing in tomorrow and what they need from critique. (discuss ideas as a large group).

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