

WEDNES-
DAY PIECE

#

3

Due
WEEK

4

FAKE-REAL

Both of our WEEK 4 texts present fiction through the forms and conventions of non-fiction. In *Tanner '88*, there's no doubt that the events are made up. Plenty of records exist of that time. We may, however, wonder at how "realistic" it is; more importantly, perhaps, we see how the conventions of "truth telling" are employed to create fiction.

Mr Wilson's Cabinet of Wonders, on the other hand, consistently blurs the line between real and fake, and though discovering which is which may not be the ultimate goal, the process of being duped is enchanting, as is the depth and strangeness of the ideas uncovered in the search for truth.

FOR next Wednesday, write a **3 page narrative in a non-fiction style**. Imagine, for instance, your favorite PBS documentary narrator and adopt his voice. Or you might mimic the form, references, footnotes, and lingo of a journal of history, or those of a journalist, or any other non-fiction genre appropriate to your subject.

BEGIN with facts, with something real, either from your chosen subject or anything else that takes your fancy. Then gradually divert, elaborate, and so on. BUT strive to remain convincing and continue to *mix* fact with fiction. One of the great tricks from *MWCofW* is that some of the most bizarre things are true while the seemingly mundane is contrived.

CONSIDER:

incorporating information from official documents

incorporating authentic quotations from relevant personages, historians, scientists

generating a persona for yourself—a journalist, for instance—exploring your subject

manufacturing a fake bibliography