

COUNTER-NARRATIVES AND LEARNING

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Counter-Narratives can be a powerful pedagogical tool, most importantly in the university setting. Syed and McLean (2021) identify an important framework of Master Narratives: they are both rigid and dynamic because they can be changed--both by those in power and those who are marginalized. I wanted to approach this in my Creative Writing classroom by examining how counter-narratives enhance students' understanding of the creative writing process. I implemented more diverse assigned readings, an exploration of different cultures' approaches to storytelling, and empowering students to redesign the peer review process. To assess my implementation, I developed a first-day self-assessment that asked students to identify and think about their readings from K-12 based on prior research from Carnegie Mellon and Cornell University. I also developed an end-of-semester self-assessment that challenged students to think about whether counter-narratives enhanced their learning.

