

# Redacted Poetry



there are some things that  
live  
long-  
in the head

from Newspaper Blackout by Austin Kleon

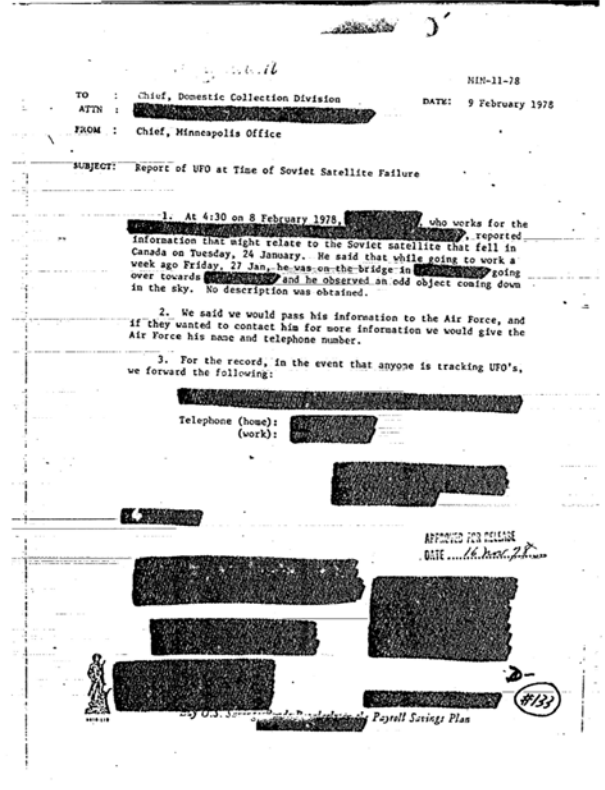
Unearth crucial words  
and strike out the rest.

Clear the clutter as your  
art emerges.



## What is redaction?

Redaction is the process of obscuring or removing something from a document before release.



## Love redacted stuff?

This CIA memo describes a Soviet satellite that fell somewhere over Canada in 1978. Read more declassified CIA UFO papers at [tinyurl.com/CIAUFODocs](http://tinyurl.com/CIAUFODocs)

# Creating Redacted Poetry

Redacted poetry (aka blackout or erasure poetry) excavates poetry from found documents like old books, magazines, newspapers, or letters.

**R**

**Read** the page, noticing words or phrases that feel interesting to you.

**A**

Draw a box around words or phrases that **anchor** your poem.

**I**

**Inventory** what you've circled. What fits? What doesn't? Scan the page again for other words that your poem might need.

**N**

**Nix** (cross out) everything but your poem's words. You can even redact part of a word, trimming off prefixes or suffixes.

R.A.I.N. framework adapted from the work of Jane Smith

Share your poetry with us! Send snapshots to [asklib@imagineiflibraries.org](mailto:asklib@imagineiflibraries.org)