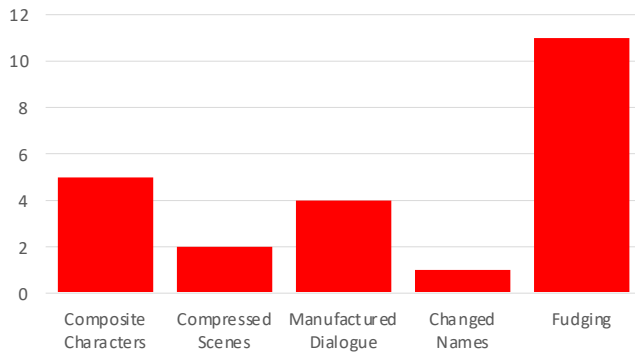


Attendance Question

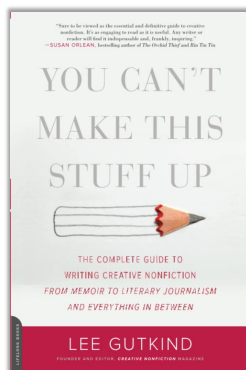
In your opinion, which technique affecting truthfulness has the greatest potential impact on the truthfulness of a creative non-fiction work?



Writing Creative Non-Fiction

Unit 1 Defining CNF	Unit 1a What Is Creative Non-Fiction?	Unit 1b Truthfulness	Unit 1c Ten Writing Recommendations
Unit 2 Striking Balances	Unit 2a Public vs Private Writing	Unit 2b Research and Immersion	Unit 2c Narrative and Narrators
Unit 3 Building Blocks	Unit 3a Reading and Readers	Unit 3b Scenes	Unit 3c Information
Unit 4 Finishing Touches	Unit 4a Recreation and Reconstruction	Unit 4b Hook, Frame, and Focus	Unit 4c Revising Creative Non-Fiction

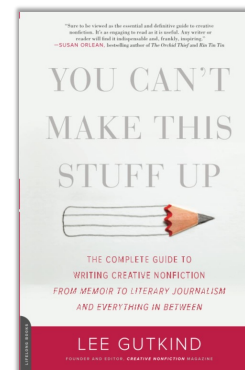
Ten Writing Recommendations



The Practicalities of Writing

1. **Find a suitable time and place to write:** Keep to a regular writing schedule.
2. **Read widely and voraciously:** Reading and writing go hand in hand.
3. **Set concrete and attainable goals:** Break down work into manageable chunks.
4. **Use an outline as a guide, not a straitjacket:** They are a rough overview, not a strict roadmap.

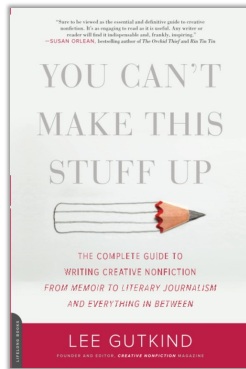
Ten Writing Recommendations



The Writing Life

5. **Write voluntarily, not by coercion:** Writing under duress results in poor writing.
6. **Understand that writing is a process:** It should be conceived as a series of tasks, not as one task.
7. **Achieve a balance between work and life:** Prioritize, organize, and budget time effectively.

✍️ Ten Writing Recommendations



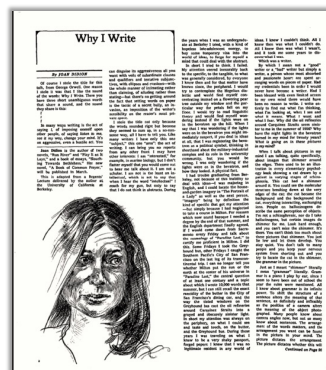
Philosophical Considerations

8. **Recognize and accept that writing is difficult and time consuming:** Writing is labour, and labour can be difficult.
9. **Harness your passion:** Think about what most matters to you, and write about it.
10. **Know that writing is partially instinctual:** Some of it is an inborn skill and pattern of behaviour.

Suggested Further Reading

- Gutkind, Lee. *The Art of Creative Non-Fiction: Writing and Selling the Literature of Reality*. Wiley, 1997.
- Lopate, Phillip, ed. *The Art of the Personal Essay: An Anthology from the Classical Era to the Present*. Anchor, 1995.
- Miller, Brenda, and Suzanne Paola. *Tell It Slant: Creating, Refining, and Publishing Creative Non-Fiction*. 3rd ed, McGraw-Hill, 2019.
- Moore, Dinty. *Crafting the Personal Essay: A Guide for Writing and Publishing Creative Non-Fiction*. Writer's Digest, 2010.
- Warner, John. *The Writer's Practice: Building Confidence in Your Non-Fiction Writing*. Penguin, 2019.
- Wilcox, Meg. *The New Journalist's Guide to Freelancing: Building Your Career in the New Media Landscape*. Broadview, 2023.
- Zinsser, William. *On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Non-Fiction*. 30th Anniversary Edition, Harper, 2006.

Joan Didion, "Why I Write" (1976)



[I am] a writer, a person whose most absorbed and passionate hours are spent arranging words on pieces of paper. Had my credentials been in order I would never have become a writer. Had I been blessed with even limited access to my own mind there would have been no reason to write. I write entirely to find out what I'm thinking, what I'm looking at, what I see and what it means. What I want and what I fear. (2)

Joan Didion. "Why I Write." *The New York Times Book Review*, 5 Dec. 1976, pp. 2, 98-99.

📖 Author Biographies

Edith Iglauer

- British Columbia-based author and journalist
- was a staff writer and frequent contributor to the *New Yorker*
- wrote for the *Vancouver Sun* and the literary journal *Geist* until her death in 2019 at age 101
- *Fishing with John* was first published in 1988 and was a runaway bestseller (392-93)

Molly Peacock

- Toronto-based author of biography, memoir, poetry, and essays
- author of the bestselling biography *Mrs Delaney Begins Her Life Work at 72*
- is series editor for *The Best Canadian Poetry in English*, an influential annual publication
- "On Dormancy" first appeared in *House and Garden Magazine*

www.mollypeacock.org

📖 Edith Iglauer, from *Fishing with John*

The Writing Life

5. **Write voluntarily, not by coercion:** Writing under duress results in poor writing.

Philosophical Considerations

8. **Recognize and accept that writing is difficult and time consuming:** Writing is labour, and labour can be difficult.
9. **Harness your passion:** Think about what most matters to you, and write about it.

“On my first trip ... I had scarcely noticed my immediate surroundings.... Now I was alive to everything....” (181)

“‘Nothing that has to be done on this boat comes naturally to me,’ I said unhappily. ‘I don’t think I can do any of the things you really need.’” (173)

“It’s a way of life for me.... [It becomes] part of you and you part of it. It’s indivisible.” (176)

📖 Molly Peacock, “On Dormancy”

The Practicalities of Writing

1. **Find a suitable time and place to write:** Keep to a regular writing schedule.

The Writing Life

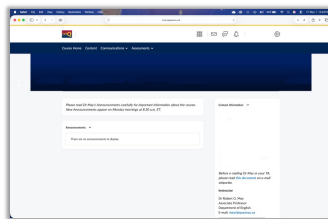
6. **Understand that writing is a process:** It should be conceived as a series of tasks, not as one task.
7. **Achieve a balance between work and life:** Prioritize, organize, and budget time effectively.

“... [P]aperwhite narcissus bulbs” require “a fishbowl” placed in a “cool, dark place” in order to grow effectively. (236-37)

“Don’t hide them too far away, or you won’t be able to lurk about watching the process of dormancy.... *Give yourself a rest.*” (237)

“Fallowness is not the same as barrenness.... Everything worth producing ... is worth doing *absolutely nothing* for.” (235)

Quiz 1



<https://onq.queensu.ca>

- Test your knowledge of Units 1a, 1b, and 1c by writing Quiz 1.
- Access the Quiz on onQ (under “Assessments” > “Quizzes”).
- The Quiz consists of a series of multiple-choice questions.
- The suggested due date for this Quiz is soon, but you may complete it anytime until the last day of class (see onQ for specific dates).
- All Quizzes count towards your final grade in the course.

Queen’s University Official Statement of Copyright: *This material is copyrighted and is for the sole use of students registered in courses at Queen’s University. This material shall not be distributed or disseminated to anyone other than students registered in courses at Queen’s University. Failure to abide by these conditions is a breach of copyright, and may also constitute a breach of academic integrity under the University Senate’s Academic Integrity Policy Statement.*