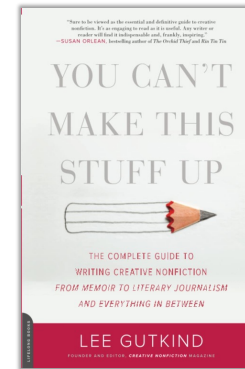


Attendance Question

What is the most important consideration for a writer who wishes to create believable manufactured dialogue for a work of CNF?

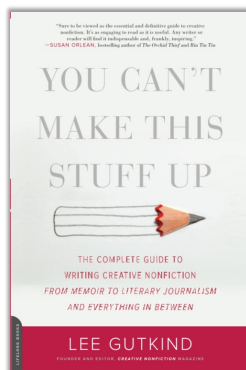
- base it on conversations you've really had with people you really know
- simplify, "messify" word choice, pauses, etc. to enhance verisimilitude
- don't overuse devices such as pauses, interruptions, dialogue tags, etc.
- show, don't tell; limit exposition and anything extraneous to the theme
- add details that will be interesting and compelling to the reader
- differentiate between the different character voices in a dialogue
- ensure every line of dialogue contributes to and advances the theme
- get the format right, and let punctuation do some of the work
- keep your reader in mind; ensure they have the information they need

Writing Creative Non-Fiction and Memoir



- Unit 1a: What Is Creative Non-Fiction?
- Unit 1b: The Truthfulness of CNF
- Unit 1c: Ten Writing Recommendations
- Unit 2a: Types of Creative Non-Fiction
- Unit 2b: Research and Immersion
- Unit 2c: Narrative and Narrators
- Unit 3a: Reading and Readers
- Unit 3b: Scenes
- Unit 3c: Information
- Unit 4a: Recreation and Reconstruction
- Unit 4b: Hook, Frame, and Focus
- Unit 4c: Revising Creative Non-Fiction

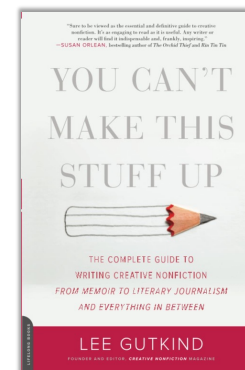
Ten Writing Recommendations



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.

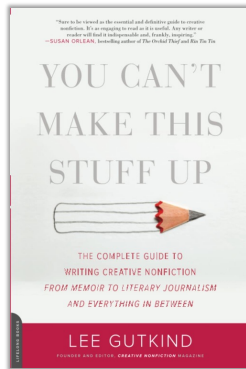
Ten Writing Recommendations



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.

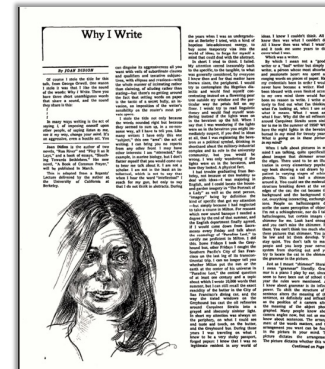
Ten Writing Recommendations



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.

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.

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*

“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)

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.

Molly Peacock, “On Dormancy”

“... [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)

The Practicalities of Writing

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The Writing Life

6. **Understand that writing is a process:** It should be conceived as a series of tasks, not as one task.
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