

Assignment #2

1) READ these two essays by masters of the craft:

- “Deadly Contact” by David Quammen, a nature writer with a distinctively sharp mind and colorful style.
- “The Accidental Universe” by Alan Lightman, physicist, novelist and essayist. Lightman, who teaches at MIT, is the author of *Einstein’s Dreams*.

Read actively! Make comments and ask questions in the margins. Notice how these writers describe their various subjects; mark passages that you think are especially effective.

FOR CLASS DISCUSSION: We’ll look at descriptions in each of these essays. Also, be prepared to discuss where you see the writers’ point of view, their own ideas, in these essays.

2) WRITE: 1 short paragraph proposal for Essay 1—what would you like to write about? We’ll discuss in class.

- *Please e-mail to me and bring a copy to class.*

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