

Session #5

4 essays: “God at the Bedside” by Groopman  
“Tools of the Trade” by Ofri  
“Just the Facts” by Campo  
“Acne” by Ofri

3 stories: “The Girl with a Pimply Face” by W.C. Williams  
“The Use of Force” by Williams  
“Brute” by Richard Selzer

**Different goals and strategies of essays and fictional stories?**

Why might Williams and Selzer have chosen to write a fictional story as a way of examining the issues that shape “The Use of Force” and “Brute”?

**Read reading notebook entries on these stories, then on “Acne”**

How do your reactions help explain the choice of the writer to create an essay or a story?

“Rhetoric: Writing about Personal Experience” by Carolyn Ross

“Writing the Personal Narrative”—the narrative essay.

“Choosing a Subject for the Personal Narrative”

“Events Past: Perspective in Personal Narration”

“Organizing the Personal Narrative”

“Unity and Coherence in the Narrative”

“Dialogue”

“Integrating Action and Reflection”

Questions about particular aspects of Ross’s discussion?

**Kernel and Motive—Volunteers to read what you have written?**

**What strategy might serve your purpose?**

**1) Organizing your narrative essay—especially, how to start**

Consider starting point of 4 essays—

role of chronology and moment of truth

**2) Presenting yourself as a character**

Think about narrator in “Tools of the trade”

**3) Integrating dialogue**

Advantages of dialogue—easiest to see perhaps in  
“The use of force” and “Acne”

**4) Building toward an insight—preparing the way—**

- a. **Do not tape a moral onto the end of your narrative.**
- b. **Let your insight or question emerge bit by bit over the course of the essay—e.g. “Tools of the Trade”**