

Session #6

Anne Fadiman: “Preface” and “Eight Questions”
from The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down
(originally commissioned by the New Yorker)

Atul Gawande: “When Doctors Make Mistakes” from Complications
(originally written for the New Yorker)

Sherwin B. Nuland: “Mistakes in the Operating Room—Error and
Responsibility”
(published in New England Journal of Medicine)

Let’s hear what you had to say in your notebook entries
—all three works focus on medical error

Audience and motive?

Gawande article in the New Yorker on surgery mistakes
What does he focus on?

Nuland article in NEJM on surgery mistakes
What does he focus on?

Relationship between narrative kernel and motive?

Nuland and Gawande?

Fadiman book on case of Lia Lee
(Hmong child with severe epilepsy)
What does she focus on?
(link with Ofri article—call to Goldie)

What does preface (often a good source) tell you about motive?
Interview gives some indication

Questions about your own narrative essays.