

Session 1: Writing about Writing

Reading: “[Why I Write](#)” by Roger Ebert, “Why DO I Write” by Natalie Goldberg, “[Why I Write](#)” by Will Leitch, “[Why I Write](#)” by Terry Tempest Williams

Writing: Write your own “Why I Write”

Thoughts: This is a warm-up exercise for both reading and writing. As we read the efforts put forth from various authors, consider how each approaches the question—some of these are straight-forward and some are more poetic and cryptic, some read like conversations and other like lists. Look also at the tone (ex: sad or funny), or sneaky ways of answering a question (ex: defining by the negative). To write your own, simply ask yourself the reasons you, personally, write. Hint: They don’t have to be glamorous! Then ask how you can best communicate that in writing.

Exercise: Try the “Why I Write,” and answer it as you see fit—a list, a poem, a page of angry prose—and then put away the writing/thought for a while. Wait a while (at least a month), and try it again. See what comes out this time.

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