

# Write & Sell Personal Essays--Advanced

January 16<sup>th</sup>-March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023



## Instructor Information

### Instructor

Melissa Hart

### Email

melissahartsmith@gmail.com

### Professional Website

www.melissahart.com

## General Information

### Description

This eight-week workshop is suitable for writers who already have a basic understanding of the components of personal essays (i.e., scene and setting, characterization and dialogue, narrative arc, thesis and theme). We'll take a deep dive into complex personal essays that incorporate research, interviews, immersion journalism, pop culture, and other outside sources. As always, I'll offer plenty of published examples by diverse writers, along with extensive feedback on your rough and final draft and suggestions for potential magazine and newspaper editors.

My writing students have published work from my classes in *HuffPost Personal*, *High Country News*, *Air & Space Smithsonian*, *Sierra*, and numerous other publications.

### Expectations and Goals

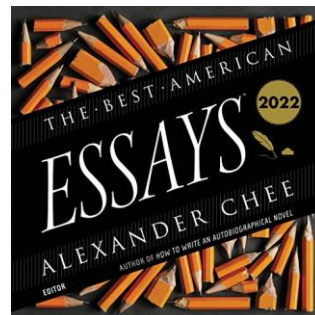
You're invited to conduct at least one professional interview by email, phone or Zoom, and spend at least two hours engaged in immersion journalism. Over eight weeks, you'll work on both a rough and final draft of a personal essay up to 2,000 words.

## Course Materials

### Required Materials

*Best American Essays 2022*

Selected weekly readings



## Course Schedule

Week	Start Date	Discussion Topic	Reading Assignment
Week 1	January 16th	Review of Essay Components & Idea Generation	"Her Kind"
Week 2	January 23	Social & Political Commentary	"Abasement"

<b>Week</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Discussion Topic</b>	<b>Reading Assignment</b>
<b>Week 3</b>	January 30	How to Find & Interview Experts	“China Brain”
<b>Week 4</b>	February 6	Research for Personal Essays	“Fire and Ice”
<b>Week 5</b>	February 13	Immersion Journalism	“At the Bend of the Road”
<b>Week 6</b>	February 20	Pop Culture Incorporation	“Baby Yeah”
<b>Week 7</b>	February 27	Revision Strategies	“Ghosts”
<b>Week 8</b>	March 6	Publication & Marketing Essays	TBA

### What’s Due When? (all assignments are optional)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>
<b>January 30th</b>	Interview Questions
<b>February 13th</b>	Rough Draft
<b>March 12th</b>	Final Draft

### Additional Information and Resources

- We’ll be using Google classroom, and I’ll provide a tutorial the week before class to help you find your way around this digital space.
- I’ll host an optional weekly hour-long Zoom meeting on a day/time we agree upon as a class. I’ll record these meetings, as well.
- All recordings and Google documents will be available to writers until May 30<sup>th</sup>.

### Cost for course is \$350, and includes:

- Eight recorded lectures with supplemental handouts and examples of published essays
- Eight live and recorded Zoom gatherings with me and with classmates
- Professional editing of the rough and second draft of an essay
- Bonus content on how to write essays to promote your published and future books, as well as how to promote your work and network to build a writing community on social media.