**Writing Short Nonfiction Essays**

Pamela Gerhardt

Email: [gerhardt@umd.edu](mailto:gerhardt@umd.edu)

Media: <https://pamelagerhardt.contently.com/>

My book: <http://www.amazon.com/Lucky-That-Way-Rediscovering-Fathers/dp/0826220045>

My blog: <http://pamelagerhardt.com/>

**Schedule: 7-9 pm, Tuesdays, Bethesda**

June 2

* What is Narrative Nonfiction? Narrative Arc
* The Three Appeals, Three Way Editing, Rhetorical Triangle
* Discuss Pistachio Essay
* Brainstorm Ideas
* Writing Prompt: Regret Letter to someone in the future

June 9

* Discuss Video, Couch, Bob Greene
* Discuss Audience – exercises. Saliva. Video.
* Adding sources, quotes, document design
* Zinsser Chapter 1, 2, 3
* Editing Sentences
* Writing Prompt

June 16

* Discuss Shilts, The Chase
* Zinsser 4, 5, 6
* Workshop – bring in a hard copy of your essay

June 23

* Discuss two Modern Love columns
* Zinsser 8, 9, 11
* Workshop: first three essays, group workshop

June 30

* Discuss two Lives columns
* Zinsser 12, 13, 14
* Workshop: three more essays

July 7

* Workshop: three more essays
* How to get published

July 14

* Workshop: three more essays
* How to Write a Query letter: write one for your essay

**What to expect (outside of class work):**

Reading a few short professionally published essays every week (one hour each week)

Reading and responding to other participants' essays prior to in-class workshop (30 minutes each week)

Reading a few short chapters from William Zinsser's "On Writing Well." (The book is free, online -- 30 minutes each week)

Writing: one five-page essay over the 7 weeks, plus revisions of that essay (depends how fast you write and edit)