

PSYCHOANALYTIC WRITING

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5 Sessions: Feb 25, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 2020

Time: 6:00 p.m. - ???

This five-session seminar/workshop for 2nd Year Candidates will focus on psychoanalytic writing: case presentations/conference presentations/journal writing/and writing with a psychoanalytic lens for blogs and other social media. We will consider the pros and cons of writing as psychoanalysts – including the ethical issues, such as patient confidentiality.

What writing factors contribute to strong oral presentations, such as a case or a conference paper? How are psychoanalytic ideas and case material transformed into articles for professional journals? What about using our professional knowledge to write for the lay public? What are the differences and similarities among these psychoanalytic writing opportunities?

In addition to readings, this seminar/workshop will include some in-class writing exercises as well as between-class short writing assignments.

Note: *With regard to readings (below) – and depending on the number of Candidates in the seminar/workshop – not all readings are mandatory for all, except for Ogden, Class 1, Kantrowitz, Class 3, and Blog, Class 5. Other readings for classes 2, 3. And 4 will be divided among participants, and readers will be asked to summarize and add their thoughts.*

Readings:*

Class 1:

Ogden, T.H. (2005). On psychoanalytic writing. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 86:15-29.

Class 2:

Orlean, S. (2007). On voice. *Telling true stories: A non-fiction writers' guide from the Nieman Foundation* (pp. 158-159): M. Kramer, Call. W.L. (Eds.). New York: NY: Penguin Group.

Goodman, A. (2003). Calming the inner critic and getting to work. From: *Writers on writing*, Vol.II. *More collected essays from The New York Times* (p. 71- 76). New York, NY: Times Books & Henry Holt and Company.

Sontag, S. (2001). Directions: Write, read, rewrite, repeat steps 2 and 3 as needed. From: *Writers [on writing]: Collected essays from The New York Times* (p. 223-229). New York, NY: Times Books & Henry Holt and Company.

McPhee, J. (2017). Omission: Choosing what to leave out. From: *Draft no. 4: On the writing process* (p.177-192). New York, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Class 3:

Kantrowitz, J. L. (2004). Writing about patients: I. Ways of Protecting Confidentiality and analysts' conflicts over choice of method. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 52:69-99.

Miller, E.M. (2009). Writing about patients: What clinical and literary writers share. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 57: 1097-1120.

Sweetman, A. (2001). Talking about talking about patients. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 11(6):861-884.

Class 4:

Bernstein S.B. (2008). Writing about the psychoanalytic process. *Psychoanalytic Inquiry*, 28:433-449.

Class 5:

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/contemporary-psychoanalysis-in-action>

*Ogden (Class 1) and Kantrowitz (Class 3) are mandatory.

Class 1: Introduction¹

Why write? What writers say about why they write.

Why write about psychoanalysis? About cases?

But, what makes good psychoanalytic writing?

How do the various forms of presentation (oral/written, professional/lay) differ?

Pitfalls of psychoanalytic writing in all genres.

In class exercise: Free writing

Assignment for Class 2: Turn Free-writing into short piece.

Class 2: General Issues in Psychoanalytic and other Writing

Review of short pieces from free-writing exercise, Class 1

Style, Diction, Voice (Orlean), Tone, Active vs Passive

Process

Getting Started (Goodman)

Staying Motivated (Sontag)

What to leave out (McPhee)

Assignment for Class 2: Choose a patient and write a short description to present to class

Class 3: Oral Presentations of Case Material and Oral Presentations

Demands of psychoanalytic training.

Review of Candidates' patient description

Ethical issues in presenting Case Material (Kantrowitz)

Assignment for Class 4:

1. Choose a clinical vignette from your practice and write a short piece about it.
2. Identify a journal article that appeals to you.

Class 4: Psychoanalytic Journal Writing

Review of Candidates' vignettes from assignment above.

Discuss journal articles.

Journal Writing: From Start to Finish

Openings (Examples)

¹ Ogden to be read by everyone for Class 1. Kantrowitz for Class 3.

Middles
Endings (Examples)

Format? Style? Process?

Full article examples from Literature (TBD by instructor)

Assignment for Class 5: Go to the following link:

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/contemporary-psychoanalysis-in-action>

Choose a blog post that appeals to you. Consider turning your writings into a short blog piece or a lay presentation.

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Class 5: Psychoanalytic Writing for Lay Public. Going Forward.

Review blogs that Candidates have chosen: What makes them good?

Why are PSa blogs relevant?

What might Candidates choose to write about in a blog?

Review workshop/seminar evaluation.