

TRAVEL  
WRITING...  
DOCUMENTING  
YOUR JOURNEY

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# DOCUMENTING YOUR JOURNEY



# WHAT WILL WE COVER TODAY?

- **Travel Writing in Contexts**
- **Different Types of Writing**
- **Why Write?**
- **Some approaches to writing**
- **Writing Exercise**

# **TRAVEL WRITING IN DIFFERENT CONTEXTS**

**Historical Perspective**

**Contemporary Perspective**

**Student Perspective**

# TYPES OF TRAVEL WRITING

## Magazine Article

- *Love and Hati* Amy Wilentz Conde Naste Traveler

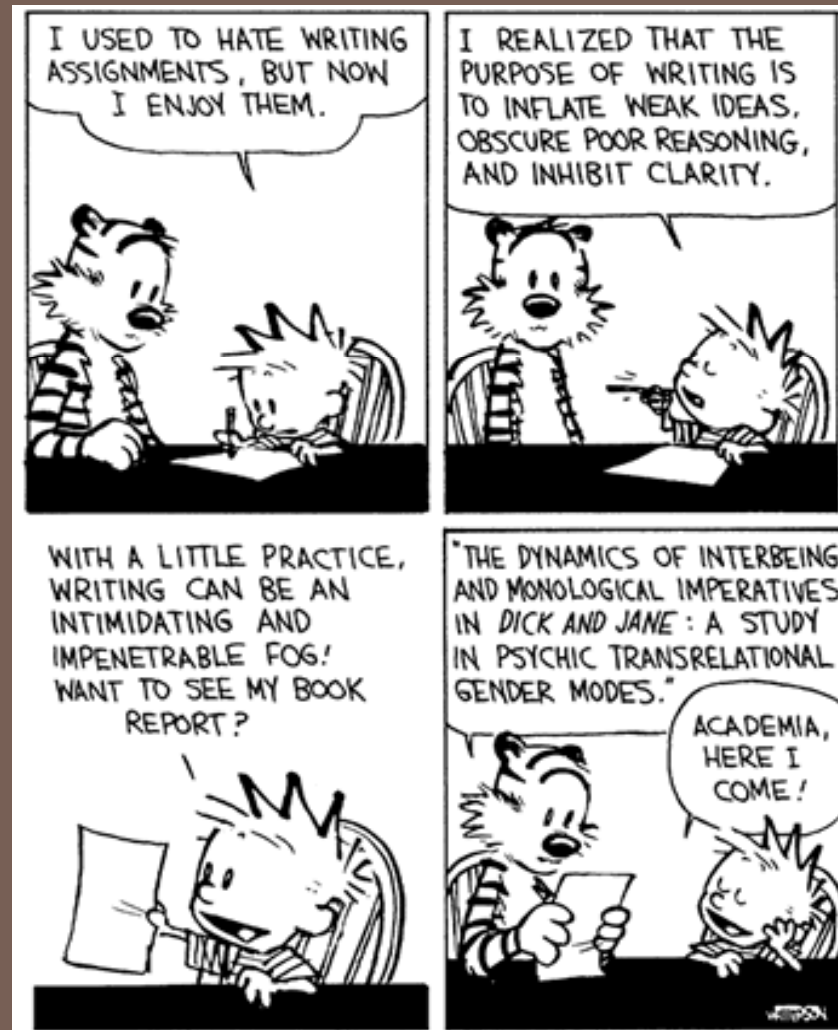
## Blog/Journal

- *Grid skipper, The worldwide Travel Blog*  
<http://gridskipper.com/>
- *A Girl in Asia* <http://www.agirlinasia.blogspot.com/>

## Books

- *Notes from a Small country* Bill Bryson
- *The sun Also Rises* Ernest Hemmingway
- *When you are Engulfed in Flames* David Sederis

# WHY WRITE?



# WHY WRITE?

## WHY STUDENTS SHOULD SHARE THEIR STORIES...

- 1. Add Educational Value**
- 2. Help Recruit New students**
- 3. Increase the visibility of study abroad on campus**
- 4. Encourage a more meaningful experience**
- 5. Inspire Productive Dialogue**
- 6. Add an Edge to your resume**

# WHY WRITE?

## OTHER REASONS

- **Get published and make lots of money**
- **Taking a step back and laughing at yourself**
- **Self Exploration**
  - A. Continuation of Journaling you did while abroad**
  - B. Good way to reflect on and make meaning of your experiences**
  - C. Assist you through transitions of cultural adjustment/re-entry**
  - D. Help you to develop personally**

# WRITING

## THE SEVEN MYTHS OF BEING A TRAVEL WRITER, according to Tim Leffel, travel writer:



- Travel writers make enough money to live on.
- Editors are hungry for travel stories from new writers.
- A destination is a story.
- Readers want to hear every detail about your personal experience.
- Travel magazines love long stories.
- You write a story, you get paid, it soon gets published.
- All your expenses will be covered.

# WRITING

## STORY TELLING; WHAT ARE THE ELEMENTS OF A GOOD STORY:

- Is the story in “first person”?
- Do we learn something about the host culture?
- Does the story take us there?
- Does it start and end with a bang?
- Is it funny?

# WRITING



## BANNED PHRASES

- Nation of Contradictions
- Experience of a Lifetime
- Classroom of the world
- Dream come true
- In search of myself
- The hospitable natives
- Simple rural folk
- The (insert nationality here )people are...
- As the plane landed...

# WRITING

## STORY TELLING; WHAT IS A PUBLISHER LOOKING FOR?

- Is the story in “first person”?
- Does Something happen?
- Do we learn something about the host culture?
- Does the story take us there?
- Does it start and end with a bang?
- Is it funny?

# WRITING

## TELLING A GOOD STORY

### Point of view

- First Person “I”, “we”
- Allows reader to hear your inner thoughts
- Example

### Narrative Arc

- Where, Who What?
- Introduce a complication or point of tension
- Examples



# WRITING

## TELLING A GOOD STORY

### Sensory Detail

- Make a picture or create a scene with your words
- Example
- Sensory detail is not a long winded description or broad generalization

### Vivid Characters

- Show us, don't tell us about the character
- Character Profile—questions to ask about your character
- Make a picture and create a character with your words
- Example

# WRITING

## TELLING A GOOD STORY

### Strong lead

- Hook the reader, make them want to keep reading
- DO NOT start on a plane—we all know what happens on a plane!
- Film example
- Examples

# Opportunities to Publish

## **Abroad View Student Writing Contest**

Submission Deadline: April

<http://www.abroadview.org/initiatives/writingcontest.htm>

## **Glimpse Magazine (multiple categories)**

Submission Deadline: varies according to contest

<http://www.glimpse.org>

## **NAFSA- Student Diplomat Essay Competition**

Submission Deadline: November

[www.nafsa.org/studentdiplomat](http://www.nafsa.org/studentdiplomat)

## **Transitions Abroad (multiple categories)**

Submission Deadline: varies according to contest

<http://www.transitionsabroad.com/information/writers/index.shtml>