

THE BOSTON PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY AND INSTITUTE
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Writing About Psychoanalysis

Psychoanalysis does not need any more abstruse or sentimental abstractions—any new paradigms or radical revisions—it just needs more good sentences.

—Adam Phillips (2001, xvi)

Welcome! Here (below) is a description of the writing elective, with the first week's assignment and suggested reading. I hope everyone will find our workshop format productive, and that you will all chime in with suggestions for reading. I look forward to our working together!

Ellen Pinsky

Writing About Psychoanalysis:

This eight-week elective class is open to all members and students interested in writing about psychoanalysis. The range includes categories such as (though not limited to) essays, papers and clinical vignettes.

We will consider together topics such as: what makes a successful piece of writing; how to develop a lively, effective argument; how to make a scene vivid; what makes an article or essay worthy of publication; strategies to avoid jargon.

We'll also discuss how the review process can help writers improve a piece of writing. We'll consider revision, self-editing, and writerly attention to models. Class members will have the opportunity to share their works in progress, or to submit one or two short writing exercises for class discussion.

Each week there will be suggested reading. Your suggestions are welcome and we will incorporate them along the way. The suggested readings can be *anything you like*, as long as the pieces are about psychoanalysis, or reflect and enhance your interest in psychoanalysis. In other words, the piece doesn't have to be *directly* about psychoanalysis (the reading by Sebastian Smee listed below is an example). The suggested readings represent individual taste and are intended for pleasure.

Week 1, April 6, Assignment and Suggested Reading(s):

For our first class: please select a **brief passage** that you value or admire from any piece of writing about psychoanalysis (or that reflects your interest in psychoanalysis). The passage can be any length, from a sentence or two up to (approx.) 750 words. Once you select your passage, email it to the rest of the class a day or two ahead of our meeting. We'll talk in the first class about the passages you select, and what you like or value about them as a psychoanalyst. We'll also discuss your goals for the workshop.

Suggested Reading, Week 1:

Gluck, L (2014). The sword in the stone. In *Faithful and Virtuous Night*. New York: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, pp. 38-42. [Available upon [Request from the Library](#)]

Smee, S (2016). How to look at nakedness — in art, that is. *The Boston Globe*, February 3, 2016. [Linked Here](#)