



# To Show and to Tell: The Craft of Literary Nonfiction

By Phillip Lopate

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**To Show and to Tell: The Craft of Literary Nonfiction** By Phillip Lopate

**A long-awaited new book on personal writing from Phillip Lopate—celebrated essayist, the director of Columbia University’s nonfiction program, and editor of *The Art of the Personal Essay*.**

Distinguished author Phillip Lopate, editor of the celebrated anthology *The Art of the Personal Essay*, is universally acclaimed as “one of our best personal essayists” (*Dallas Morning News*). Here, combining more than forty years of lessons from his storied career as a writer and professor, he brings us this highly anticipated nuts-and-bolts guide to writing literary nonfiction. A phenomenal master class shaped by Lopate’s informative, accessible tone and immense gift for storytelling, *To Show and To Tell* reads like a long walk with a favorite professor—refreshing, insightful, and encouraging in often unexpected ways.

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### Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Lopate, a consummate and piquant essayist and director of Columbia University's graduate nonfiction program, draws on his extensive teaching experience in this expert, anecdotal, funny, and frank guide to writing "intelligent, satisfying, engaging literary nonfiction." Even in a how-to book, Lopate can't help but write lithe and sparring personal essays, so we learn, for example, that he honed his chops as a ghostwriter. His sophisticated advice touches on psychological challenges as much as craft, such as when he names "self-hatred" as a "stumbling block" for writers, and, admitting his own audacity when writing about family and friends, instructs memoirists to be prepared to "accept the guilt" when people get upset. He also suggests developing a "tone of assertion." Lopate draws helpful comparisons with fiction, noting that nonfiction also requires conflict and the "art of characterization" but that its story line is a thought process. Never one to accept received wisdom, Lopate encourages writers to go beyond the safe, facile, and sentimental. To see him practice what he preaches, turn to his newest essay collection, *Portraits inside My Head*. --Donna Seaman

Review

"[*To Show and To Tell*] gives away all his trade secrets – a thoughtful guidebook for writers of literary nonfiction." (*New York Times Book Review*)

"One of the best guides to writing nonfiction I've read." (*The Cleveland Plain Dealer*)

"Sophisticated... Lopate, a consummate and piquant essayist,...draws on his extensive teaching experience in this expert, anecdotal, funny, and frank guide to writing "intelligent, satisfying, engaging literary nonfiction." Even in a how-to book, Lopate can't help but write lithe and sparring personal essays... Never one to accept received wisdom, Lopate encourages writers to go beyond the safe, facile, and sentimental." (*Booklist*)

"One of the Earls of Essay returns with a collection that illustrates both his knowledge of the genre and his considerable skill in practicing it... A useful collection of bracing thoughts and sinuous sentences." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

"At last--a reliable guide to the signature genre of the age. Phillip Lopate's tour of literary nonfiction includes brilliant and helpful considerations of the essay and memoir, placing them and their vexing questions in clear cultural context. Impossible now to imagine a nonfiction course that does not include *To Show and To Tell* in its syllabus. This is the rule book. But it's much more than a "craft book" for writers. It's a delight in itself, a fascinating exploration for readers, for anyone wondering why personally voiced nonfiction is so popular. The range is impressive, and the voice here is immediate, fresh, witty, winningly honest. An indispensable book." (Patricia Hampl *author of The Florist's Daughter*)

"Shrewd, revealing, dexterous, skeptical, provocative, restless, wry, necessary." (Laura Kipnis *author of Against Love and How to Become a Scandal*)

"The work of a master, *To Show and To Tell* is beyond compare, for it embodies a poetics of literary nonfiction that takes into account all the crucial aspects, elements, and issues of the craft. Thus it's the essential text for anyone who seeks to enjoy, to understand, or to write nonfiction." (Carl H. Klaus *author of*

*The Made-Up Self: Impersonation in the Personal Essay*)

#### About the Author

Phillip Lopate is the author of more than a dozen books, including three personal essay collections, *Bachelorhood*, *Against Joie de Vivre*, *Portrait of My Body*, and *Waterfront*. He directs the graduate nonfiction program at Columbia University and lives in Brooklyn with his wife and daughter.

#### Users Review

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##### **Nadine Taylor:**

This *To Show and to Tell: The Craft of Literary Nonfiction* book is just not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book is actually information inside this e-book incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. That *To Show and to Tell: The Craft of Literary Nonfiction* without we realize teach the one who studying it become critical in pondering and analyzing. Don't become worry *To Show and to Tell: The Craft of Literary Nonfiction* can bring once you are and not make your carrier space or bookshelves' become full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even telephone. This *To Show and to Tell: The Craft of Literary Nonfiction* having fine arrangement in word as well as layout, so you will not sense uninterested in reading.

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Is it a person who having spare time then spend it whole day by means of watching television programs or just laying on the bed? Do you need something new? This *To Show and to Tell: The Craft of Literary Nonfiction* can be the answer, oh how comes? It's a book you know. You are thus out of date, spending your time by reading in this completely new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these guides have than the others?

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