



Crafting Revision in Creative Nonfiction

One Word Clarifies the Truth

By Ryan Thorpe

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Offers a practical guide to crafting truthful, engaging creative nonfiction by showing how precise writing choices shape vivid, emotionally rich, and factually grounded narratives.

Crafting Revision in Creative Nonfiction: One Word Clarifies the Truth presents creative nonfiction as a genre defined not by personal storytelling alone, but by the careful revision of experience into meaning. Moving beyond the idea that creative nonfiction emerges fully formed from memory, this book positions revision as the central act through which writers discover structure, clarify purpose, and make ethical decisions about truth, representation, and voice. Revision is treated not as correction, but as inquiry: a way of asking what a piece is truly about and how it should be shaped for a reader.

Written for undergraduate writers, multilingual students, and instructors teaching personal and public-facing nonfiction, the book explores key creative nonfiction forms, including memoir, travel writing, reflective essays, and narrative journalism. Students are guided through revision strategies that address both global and local concerns, such as selecting meaningful moments, shaping scenes, managing perspective, incorporating research, and refining tone. Rather than separating craft from ethics, the text integrates stylistic revision with questions of responsibility, encouraging writers to consider what they owe their subjects, their readers, and themselves.

Throughout the book, real student essays serve as the foundation for revision-based learning. Each chapter demonstrates how writers can expand, cut, reorganize, and rethink their drafts through multiple revisions, emphasizing reflection and intentional decision-making. By centering revision as both a creative and ethical practice, *Crafting Revision in Creative Nonfiction: One Word Clarifies the Truth* offers instructors a flexible, genre-aware approach to teaching nonfiction and helps students develop confidence, clarity, and control over their writing.

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Dr. Ryan Thorpe, Yuli Ming Endowed Professor of Writing at Shanghai Jiao Tong University Global College, directs its academic writing program and writing center. Author of *Teaching Second Language Creative Writing* (2021) and three fantasy novels (2023), he is currently developing the Writing Through Revision textbook series for Anthem Press.

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