

Assertion: Perhaps more than any other writing style, travel writing is a highly accessible means for college-age students to develop and publish their own content across multiple platforms while engaging with the real world intellectually, geographically, and culturally.

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Greetings



My name is Michael Downing and I teach writing courses at Kutztown University.



I've been teaching for 35 years and one of the first questions student writers ask is: "How do I establish myself professionally when I don't have actual professional writing experience?"



I tell them to develop a blog so they can show competence in a variety of areas including knowing how to produce material for a particular audience; web software familiarity; legal ramifications relating to copyright, and the ability to produce, revise, edit, and proofread their own work, including videos and photos.

My Writing Wanderland



INTERESTED IN
INFORMATIONAL AND CREATIVE WRITING



OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS I'VE
DEVELOPED A LOVE FOR TRAVEL WRITING,
WHICH NICELY BLENDS THE TWO.



MY BLOG: [MY WRITING WANDERLAND](#)

My Writing Wanderland

An online home where I write, teach, publish and explore

HOME / WELCOME TO MY WEBSITE / ABOUT PROFESSOR DOWNING



OER Journalism Book through PA Adopt

I recently published an Open Educational Resource (OER) Journalism book through PA Adopt. I'll beef up this entry later as it relates to the details but since I had my hands on the official version right here and now, I wanted to post it.

4_5_Downing_JournalismHandbook_PAADOPTDownload

🕒 August 16, 2024

The Strange World of Academic Publishing>Professors Without Tier-1 Access Should Self-Publish



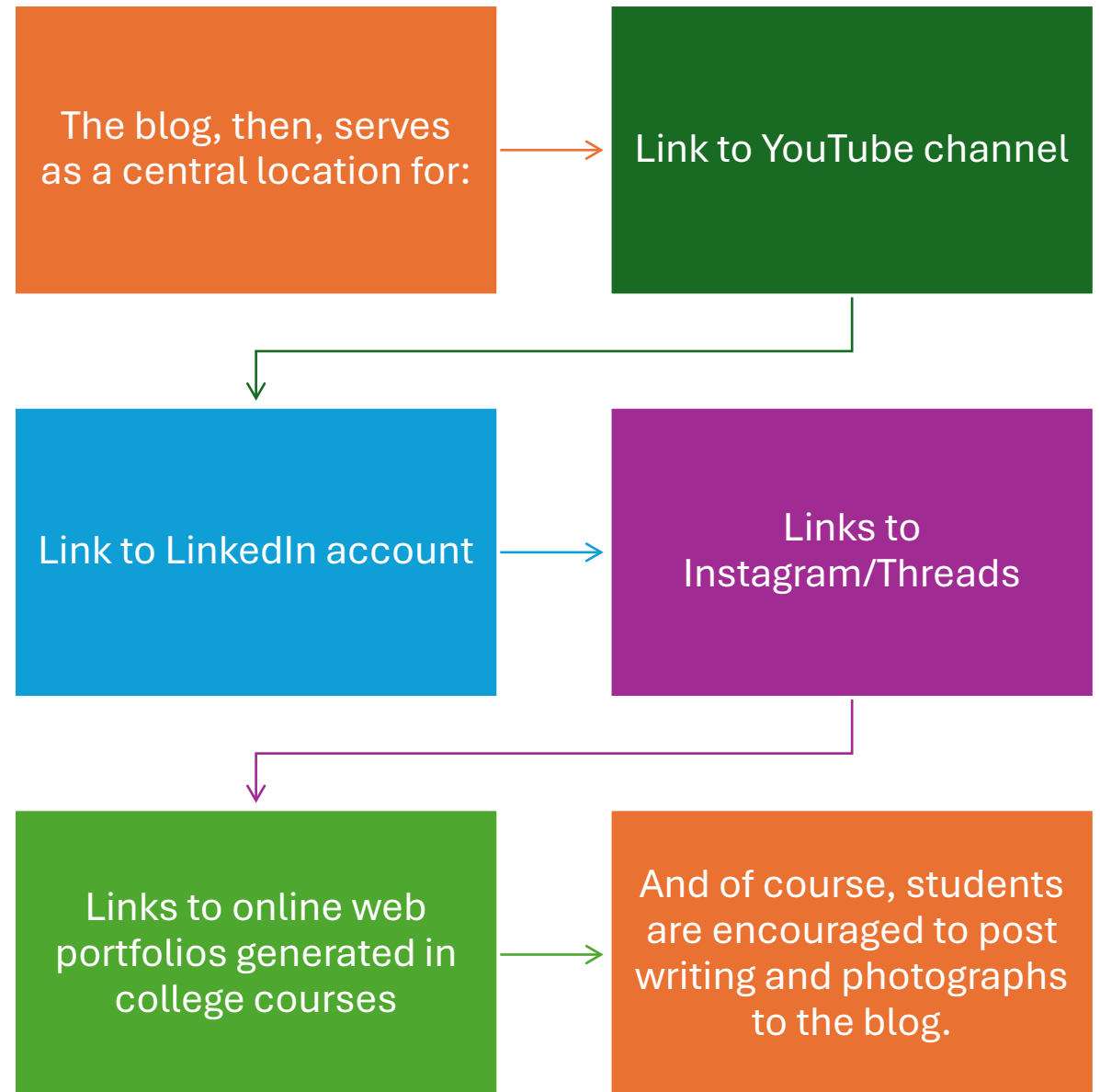
DRAFT I was naïve when I got started in the world of academic publishing and didn't know my field would be so territorial--because the people are generally kind—but academic fields are

UK Trip 2023: Chapter Fifteen>Edinburgh



Edinburgh Edinburgh is magnificent. It was our favorite place on the trip. There is so much to see and do--and so much history. Edinburgh has been the

Blog as base for multiple platforms



Simple formula: Go somewhere...then write about it

Travel


Thesis: Travel writing is accessible to students in ways that professional journalism and tech writing are not.

Go



Go to the beach or the boardwalk or a farmer's market or attend a summer fair.

Explore

Explore state parks or amusement parks; destinations are everywhere.



Inclusivity: Writing for Change



The theme of this year's conference is
“Inclusivity: Writing for Change.”

Travel writing expands the collective
consciousness of our global community by
offering insightful stories about people and
locations and communities...

...about humans doing things: their customs,
language, rituals, clothing, foods, families. And
from that, at least in my experience, positive
change occurs and barriers begin to crumble.

Humanization

Travel writing is important because it humanizes different and distant places.

Unlike standard journalism, it doesn't pretend to offer "detached objectivity," and it doesn't follow the fear-based, panic-driven murder/war/disaster modes of the 24-hour news cycle.

Instead, it uses a personal lens to explore nuanced realities of daily life away from home, finding human commonalities as it explores cultural differences.

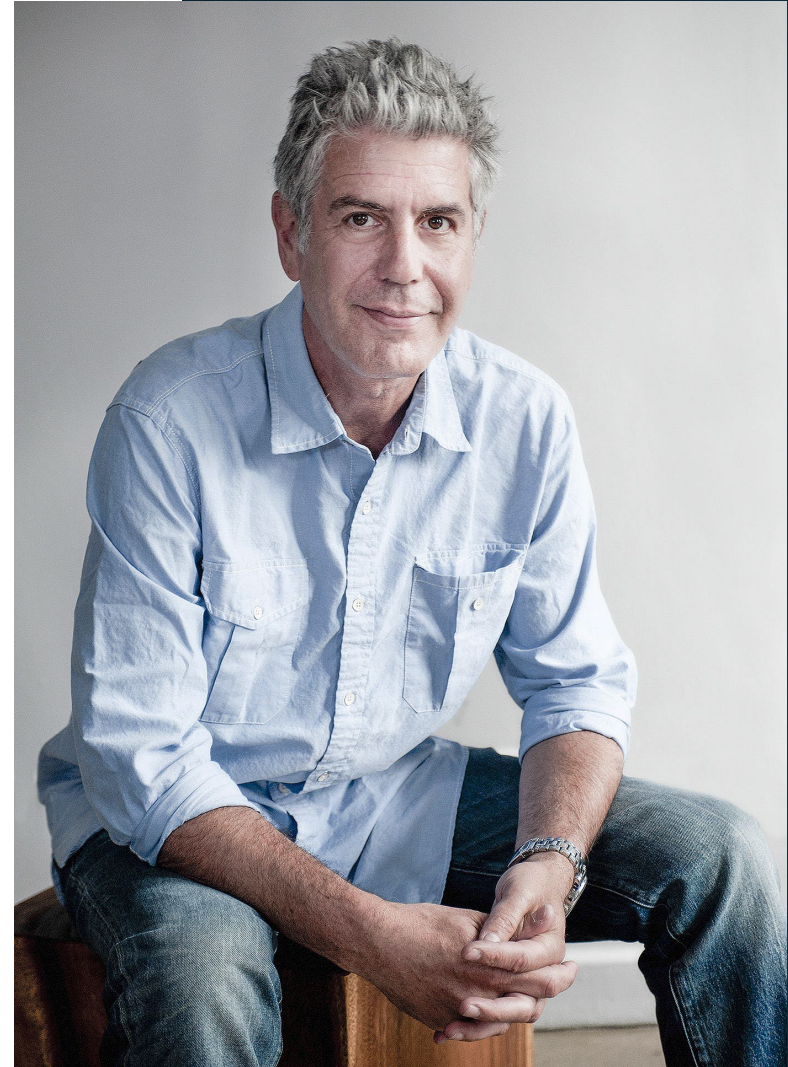
Tony Bourdain on willingness

“It seems that the more places I see and experience, the bigger I realize the world to be. The more I become aware of, the more I realize how relatively little I know of it, how many places I have still to go, how much more there is to learn.”

“Without experimentation, a willingness to ask questions and try new things, we shall surely become static, repetitive, and moribund.”

“If I’m an advocate for anything, it’s willingness to move. As far as you can, as much as you can. Across the ocean, or simply across the river. The extent to which you can walk in someone else’s shoes or at least eat their food, it’s a plus for everybody. Open your mind, get up off the couch, move.”

“Travel is about the gorgeous feeling of teetering in the unknown.”



Lola Mendez on engagement

Lola Méndez writes:

“I feel accomplished when I get feedback that travel posts...sparked interest for someone to go to a place or exposed them to a locale they'd never heard of.

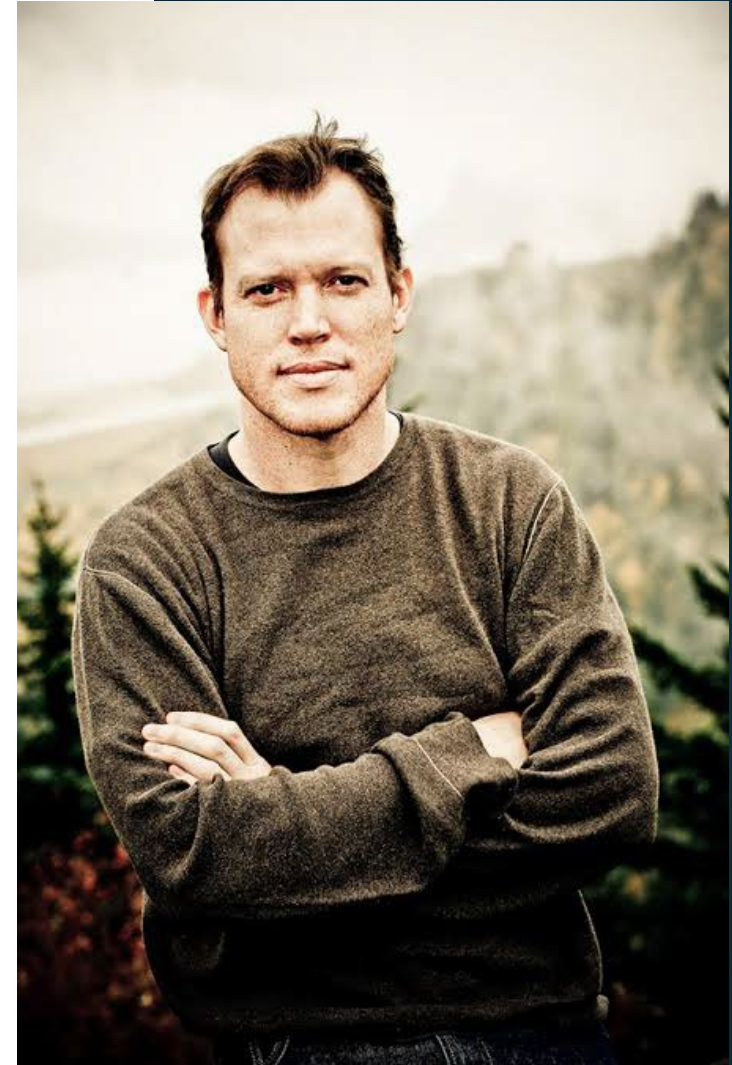
“For me, the elements that are important are those that will make someone wonder or question something...I'm trying to spread awareness about how we can all be more mindful travelers as we explore the globe.”



Rolf Potts on Perspective

Be sure to write from the perspective of a traveler, not a citizen: “George Orwell reviewed Henry Miller’s *Colossus of Maroussi*. He quipped that it bore “all the normal stigmata of the travel book, the fake intensities, the tendency to discover the ‘soul’ of a town after spending two hours in it.”

Orhan Pamuk’s book about his hometown, *Istanbul*, has been hailed as a masterpiece, but I’d imagine his own neighbors might take issue with his sour, sentimental, cerebral take on their city. Pamuk, a novelist and academic, tends to view his city through the lens of art and literature, whereas a Turkish butcher or banker or beautician might view the city in a completely different way.



Jini Reddy on intention

I needed to roam, to immerse myself in the simple and profound physical beauty of a natural landscape. I wasn't relying on map and compass – I turned to my inner compass...I put my faith in the power of intention, I used my intuition, I practiced deep listening, and trusted that I'd be guided, and that the path would unfold. In a way, I traveled as a pilgrim.



Michael Mewshaw on establishing identity

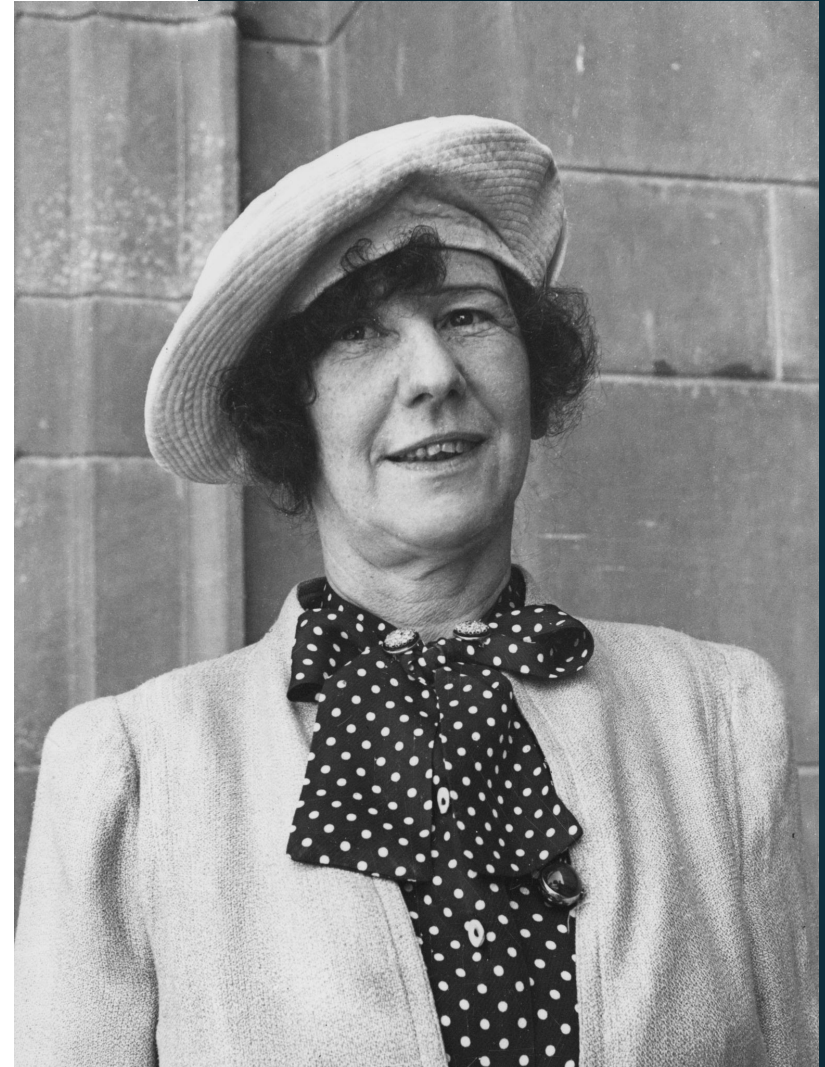
According to Mewshaw, the escape from the local, to the regional, to the national, to the international can be seen as “a subversive act... part of the process of self-actualization...I travel to define and assert my existential identity.”

“I travel. Therefore I am.”



Freya Stark on the wonder of travel

“This is a great moment, when you see, however distant, the goal of your wandering. The thing which has been living in your imagination suddenly becomes part of the tangible world. It matters not how many ranges, rivers or parching dusty ways may lie between you; it is yours now for ever.”





The End

Links

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