

WONDERWORKS

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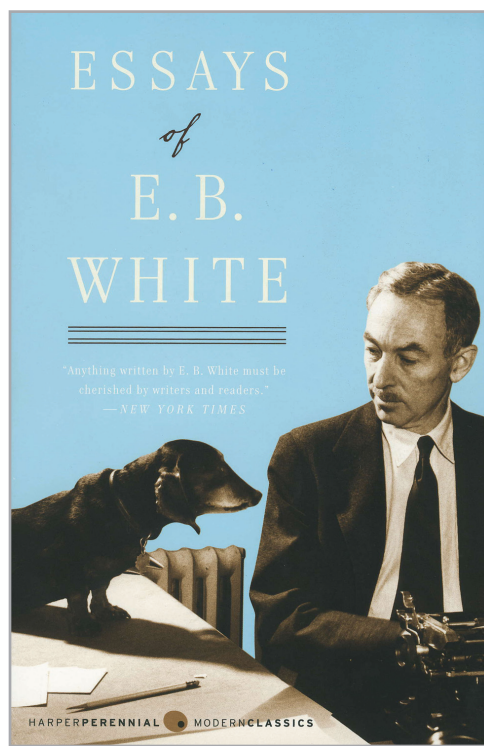
Department of English and
Creative Writing Program,
University of Houston

present

a reading-intensive exploration of essays,
criticism, and related forms plus thematically
related films and writing practicum

11 JUNE – 13 JULY 2012

10 AM – 4 PM, MONDAY – FRIDAY
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON



Elwyn Brooks White (1899-1985) and friend as seen on the cover of White's *Essays* (Harper and Row, 1977). He wrote in the foreword to this collection: "The essayist is a self-liberated man, sustained by the childish belief that everything he thinks about, everything that happens to him, is of general interest.... Each new excursion of the essayist, each new 'attempt,' differs from the last and takes him into new country. This delights him. Only a person who is congenitally self-centered has the effrontery and the stamina to write essays."

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED is open to high school students of special promise and ability who will be entering grades 11 or 12 next fall or who will have just graduated from high school this spring. Students admitted to the program must have at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average.

Tuition is \$500. Scholarships are available, but only for students demonstrating true financial need. Admissions are determined on a need-blind basis. No student will be prevented from participating in the program because of inability to pay tuition.

Classes are held at the University of Houston Central Campus, Monday – Friday, except 4 July. This program is meant to be enjoyable, but it is also challenging and requires focused effort and commitment.

To apply, fill out the student section of this form and then have a teacher or counselor who knows you well complete the recommendation section. Your teacher or counselor should then mail (and/or fax) the completed form along with an official transcript reflecting your grades (and PSAT, SAT and/or Stanford Text scores, if available) plus any additional documentation required for scholarship consideration to:

Wonderworks
PO Box 667550
Houston, TX 77266-7550
Fax: 713.523.6145

To ensure full consideration, applications must be received by 4 May; early applications are encouraged.

All applicants will be notified of acceptance by 25 May; early applicants will be notified earlier. Late applications will be considered only if space remains available. If you have questions or need additional information, e-mail info@wonderworkshouston.org or call 713.301.4882.

As every scheme of life, so every form of writing has its advantages and inconveniencies, though not mingled in the same proportions. The writer of essays, escapes many embarrassments to which a larger work would have exposed him; he seldom harasses his reason with long trains of consequence, dims his eyes with the perusal of antiquated volumes, or burthens his memory with great accumulations of preparatory knowledge. A careless glance upon a favourite author, or transient survey of the varieties of life, is sufficient to supply the first hint or seminal idea, which enlarged by the gradual accretion of matter stored in the mind, is by the warmth of fancy easily expanded into flowers, and sometime ripen into fruit.

SAMUEL JOHNSON *The Rambler*, 184, Saturday, 21 December 1751

Perhaps no one was in a better position to know than Johnson, although he may have discounted, in a show of modesty, the difficulty of a form he mastered as few have, and which helped sustain him through the longer-term pursuit of compiling the first modern Dictionary of the English Language (in which he defines essay as "a loose sally of the mind"). But no matter how they find their way out of the author's head and on to the printed page, the best essays, as Virginia Woolf said, "haunt the mind and remain entire in the memory."

This course will introduce you to some of the most haunting and memorable essays ever written, including several by Montaigne, the inventor of the form, who even provided the model for Johnson's disclaimer by alleging: "I have only made up a bunch of other men's flowers, providing of my own only the string that ties them together." Despite his protests, Montaigne (whose dense revisions and corrections of his own texts are a matter of archival record), knowingly created one of the most extraordinary self-portraits of all time by, as Woolf appreciated, "open[ing] the doors wide upon all experience...rejecting nothing, tolerating everything, and watching the play of the soul with irony and detachment."

You'll sample the work of such other masters as Swift, Addison, Lamb, Hazlitt, Emerson, Thoreau, Woolf, Orwell, E. B. White, and Roland Barthes, as well as some totally awesome writers who are a little off the beaten path like John Betjeman, J. B. Jackson, Reyner Banham, and Nora Ephron. Virginia Woolf and E. B. White will be considered in particular depth. And while you're adding to your knowledge of the canon up to now, you'll also have the opportunity to enlarge and expand a few of ideas of your own into portfolio-ready essays with "the warmth of fancy" and the Houston summer.

This program is made possible in part by support from **HOUSTON ENDOWMENT, INC.** and **THE BROWN FOUNDATION.**

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

APPLICATION FOR ENROLLMENT

After you have completed the student part of this form, give it to your teacher or counselor to complete and have them submit it WITH A TRANSCRIPT plus any supporting documentation required for scholarship consideration either by mail:

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

Wonderworks
PO Box 667550
Houston Texas 77266-7550

or by fax:

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

713.523.6145

**EARLY
DECISIONS
FOR
EARLY
APPLICATIONS**

To be filled out by the student (please print):

name (last, first, middle)

mailing address

city/zip code

e-mail address (your own or that of a parent or teacher)

home telephone

date of birth sex

high school grade you will enter next fall

school district

mother/female guardian's name

address

telephone

e-mail address (if any)

occupation college graduate?

father/male guardian's name

address

telephone

e-mail address (if any)

occupation college graduate?

To be filled out by the student and parent/guardian ONLY if applying for a need-based scholarship.

Students who qualify for free or reduced lunches and/or are enrolled in the Texas Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) automatically receive full scholarships, subject to verification; other students may be eligible for full or partial scholarships based on family income as reflected on their parents' or guardians' most recent Federal Income Tax return(s). If parents are divorced, BOTH must provide copies of their tax returns.

All scholarships are need-based and therefore not available to students whose parents or guardians can afford tuition and fees without undue financial difficulty. This program is able to sustain its policy of need-blind admissions only by reserving scholarships for those who actually need them. If you truly need a scholarship, ask for it, but if you don't, don't.

I receive a free or reduced-cost lunch at school:

yes no

Verified by school official:

signature of school official

printed name

title

I am enrolled in the Texas Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

yes no

Please include a copy of the enrollment certificate.

If the answer to either of the questions above is yes, you already qualify for a tuition waiver and do NOT need to provide information concerning family income. Otherwise, please furnish the following information:

My family's TOTAL INCOME for 2011 (or 2010 if the 2011 return has not yet been filed – circle one) as reported to the US Internal Revenue Service on line 4 of Form 1040EZ; line 22 of Form 1040; or line 15 of Form 1040A was: \$ _____

As verification, you must also include a copy of first page of Form 1040EZ or the first two pages of Forms 1040 or 1040A.

For all tuition waiver applicants:

I affirm that the information provided above is true and correct.

signature of parent or guardian

printed name of parent or guardian

Please remember that all information provided in this section is subject to verification. False or inaccurate statements and/or material omissions will cause the application for enrollment as well as scholarship assistance to be rejected.

To be filled out by a teacher who knows you well and/or a counselor.

Cumulative grade point average: _____

Class ranking (approximate):

top 10 per cent top 50 per cent
 top 25 per cent other

The curriculum the student is taking can best be described as:

honors regular
 gifted college prep
 vocational

The student's behavior is:

always courteous and respectful
 usually courteous and respectful
 sometimes rowdy and/or has difficulty getting along
 frequently rowdy and/or has difficulty getting along

Overall, I would recommend this student:

most highly
 highly
 with reservations (please explain)

Any additional comments you feel would help us assess the student's abilities (attach a separate sheet if necessary).

signature

printed name

title

daytime/evening phone numbers

e-mail address



Have you remembered to include a transcript?

WonderWorksHouston.org