

For Poets Studying Outside of the Academy

User's Note:

I created this document for folks seeking to engage with poetry outside of academia. Many of the resources stored here helped me craft a DIY poetry education while working full-time. I added others after I received the opportunity to pursue an MFA. Wherever you are in your relationship to poetry, I hope you find the following essays, books, and other resources helpful.

Happy reading!

Essays:

- [Muscularity and Eros: On Syntax by Carl Phillips](#)
- [Against Explanation by Tarfia Faizullah](#)
- [How to Unlearn Everything by Alexander Chee](#)
- [Four Temperaments and the Forms of Poetry by Gregory Orr](#)
- [The Near Transitive Properties of the Political and Poetical: Erasure by Solmaz Sharif](#)
- [The Memory Field by Jake Skeets](#)
- [Someone is Writing a Poem by Adrienne Rich](#)
- [Stamina by Carl Phillips](#)
- [Investigative/Documentary/Social Poetics On the Tenth Anniversary of the Publication of "From Reznikoff to Public Enemy" by Philip Metres](#)

Craft Handbooks & Other Resources:

- ❖ Introduction to the Foundations:
 - The Poetry Handbook by Mary Oliver
 - Rules for the Dance by Mary Oliver
 - The Poet's Companion: A Guide to the Pleasures of Writing Poetry by Kim Addonizio and Dorianne Laux
 - The Princeton Handbook of Poetic Terms
 - [The Poetry Foundation's Glossary of Poetic Terms](#)
- ❖ "The Tradition":
 - The Norton Anthology of Modern & Contemporary Poetry Vol. 1 & 2
 - The Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry & Poetics

❖ **Further Reading:**

- **Artful Sentences: Syntax as Style** by Virginia Tufte
- **Poets Teaching Poets** Edited by Gregory Orr and Ellen Bryant Voigt
- **Of Color: Poets' Ways of Making: An Anthology of Essays on Transformative Poetics**, Edited by Luisa A. Igloria and Amanda Galvan Huynh
- **The Triggering Town** by Richard Hugo
- **Coin of the Realm: Essays on the Life and Art of Poetry** by Carl Phillips
- **The Art of Daring: Risk, Restlessness, and Imagination** by Carl Phillips
- **Proofs & Theories: Essays on Poetry** by Louise Glück
- **American Originality: Essays on Poetry** by Louise Glück
- **Thinking Its Presence: Form, Race, and Subjectivity in Contemporary Asian American Poetry** by Dorothy J. Wang
- **Twentieth Century Pleasures: Prose on Poetry** by Robert Hass
- **The Art of Voice** by Tony Hoagland
- **A Little Book on Form** by Robert Hass
- **How to Write an Autobiographical Novel** by Alexander Chee
- **The Book of Forms** by Lewis Putnum Turco
- **Next Word, Better Word: The Craft of Writing Poetry** by Steven Dobyns
- **Appropriate: A Provocation** by Paisley Rekdal
- **Regarding the Pain of Others** by Susan Sontag
- **The Poem's Country: Place & Poetic Practice**, Edited by Shara Lessley and Bruce Snider

Poetry Podcasts:

- **Between the Covers: Conversations with Writers**
- **VS: Poetry Foundation**
- **The Slowdown**
- **The New Yorker: Poetry**
- **Poetry Off the Shelf**
- **The American Poetry Review**
- **Breaking Form: A Poetry and Culture Podcast**
- **Lit from the Basement**
- **The Poet Salon**
- **MFA Writers**
- **poem-a-day**
- **Ode & Psyche**
- **City Arts & Lectures**
- **The Hive Poetry Collective**

Community Poetry Workshops:

- [The Speakeasy Project \(Online\)](#)
- [The Porch \(Nashville, TN\)](#)
- [Lighthouse Writers \(Denver, CO\)](#)
- [Brooklyn Poets \(New York, NY\)](#)
- [24PearlStreet \(Online\)](#)
- [The Heart of It \(Point Arena, CA & Online\)](#)

Workshop Companion Books:

- **The Anti-Racist Writing Workshop: How to Decolonize the Creative Classroom** by Felicia Rose Chavez
- **Craft in the Real World: Rethinking Fiction Writing and Workshopping** by Matthew Salesses

Interviews with Poets & Editors:

- [Divedapper](#)
- [Frontier Poetry's Editors Talk Archives](#)
- [Only Poems](#)
- [Poetry Northwest's Interviews](#)

Publication: Where to Start

- [Chill Subs](#)

**I'm always looking for more resources to add to this list. If you'd like to suggest any books, essays, or other media, please contact me through my website!