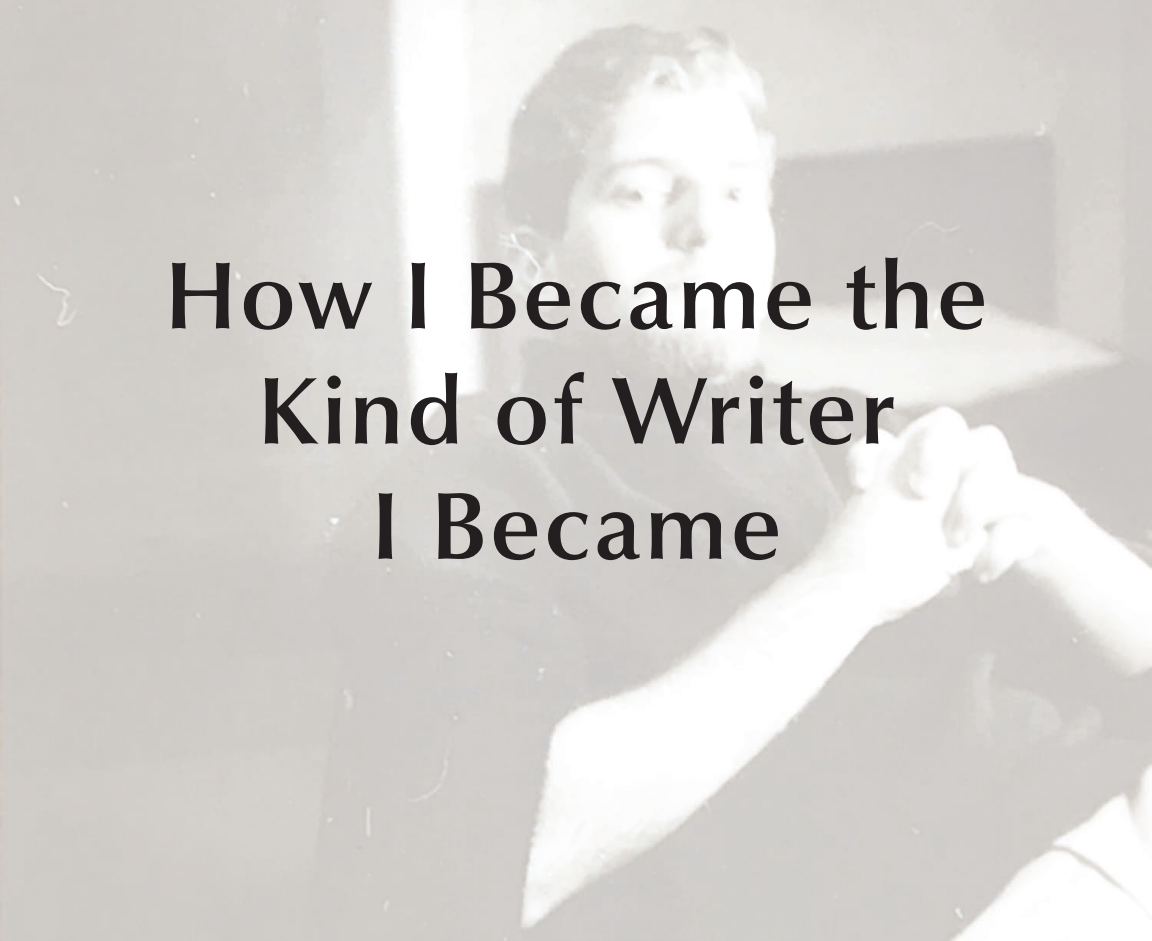

An Experiment in Autoethnography



**How I Became the
Kind of Writer
I Became**

by
Charles Bazerman

HOW I BECAME THE KIND
OF WRITER I BECAME
AN EXPERIMENT IN AUTOETHNOGRAPHY

LIFESPAN WRITING RESEARCH

Series Editors: Ryan J. Dippre and Talinn Phillips

The Lifespan Writing Research series publishes single- and multi-author empirical and theoretical approaches to studying writing through the lifespan that inform and/or challenge established lifespan writing frameworks. The series encourages a wide range of theoretical, methodological, and philosophical perspectives, and particularly inter- and multi-disciplinary perspectives. It also supports cohesive and integrated edited collections that explore particular issues in lifespan writing research from a range of perspectives, as well as those that recount, explore, or critique the recent and emerging history of lifespan writing research.

The WAC Clearinghouse and University Press of Colorado are collaborating so that these books will be widely available through free digital distribution and low-cost print editions. The publishers and the series editors are committed to the principle that knowledge should freely circulate and have embraced the use of technology to support open access to scholarly work.

HOW I BECAME THE KIND OF WRITER I BECAME

AN EXPERIMENT IN AUTOETHNOGRAPHY

Charles Bazerman

The WAC Clearinghouse
wac.colostate.edu
Fort Collins, Colorado

University Press of Colorado
upcolorado.com
Denver, Colorado

The WAC Clearinghouse, Fort Collins, Colorado 80523

University Press of Colorado, Denver, Colorado 80202

© 2023 by Charles Bazerman. This work is released under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International license.

ISBN 978-1-64215-188-6 (PDF) | 978-1-64215-189-3 (ePub) | 978-1-64642-499-3 (pbk.)

DOI 10.37514/LWR-B.2023.1886

Produced in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Pending

Copyeditor: Caitlin Kahihikolo

Designer: Mike Palmquist

Cover Art: Photo used with permission of Charles Bazerman.

Series Editors: Ryan J. Dippre and Talinn Phillips

The WAC Clearinghouse supports teachers of writing across the disciplines. Hosted by Colorado State University, it brings together scholarly journals and book series as well as resources for teachers who use writing in their courses. This book is available in digital formats for free download at wac.colostate.edu.

Founded in 1965, the University Press of Colorado is a nonprofit cooperative publishing enterprise supported, in part, by Adams State University, Colorado State University, Fort Lewis College, Metropolitan State University of Denver, University of Alaska Fairbanks, University of Colorado, University of Denver, University of Northern Colorado, University of Wyoming, Utah State University, and Western Colorado University. For more information, visit upcolorado.com.

Land Acknowledgment. The Colorado State University Land Acknowledgment can be found at <https://landacknowledgment.colostate.edu>.

Contents

Acknowledgmentsvii

Introduction 3

PART ONE. WRITING FROM WHERE I WAS. 15

Chapter 1. Contexts for This Writer’s Journey 17

Chapter 2. Starting Down a Path: Earliest Dispositions, Interactions, and Education. 23

Chapter 3. Writing in Secondary School: Learning to Confront the World through Writing29

Chapter 4. Family Troubles and Academic Identity 37

Chapter 5. Political Awareness and Political Passions. 45

PART TWO. WRITING TO FIND MYSELF. 51

Chapter 6. Telluride House: Are We Home Yet? 53

Chapter 7. First-Year Composition: Setting Terms for College Writing 57

Chapter 8. Writing in Non-Literature Courses 63

Chapter 9. Writing in Literature Courses Through the Third Year: Learning Close Textual Analysis 69

Chapter 10. University Crises and the Search for Meaning: Where Do I Belong?.....79

Chapter 11. Dramatic Literature, Dramatic Performance, and the Drama of Life: Casting About for Meanings 87

Chapter 12. Playing Out the Vision: Other Writing About Literature in the Senior Year 97

Chapter 13. Graduate School, Take One: Imagination and Discipline 105

PART THREE. FINDING WRITING AS A WAY TO BE 111

Chapter 14. Into the World: The Social Value of Writing 113

Chapter 15. Finishing Graduate School 119

Chapter 16. Teacher of College Writing: A Meaningful Commitment. 123

Chapter 17. First Steps in Academic Publishing: Bringing My Writing into the Published World 129

PART FOUR. LEARNING THE WRITING SCHOLAR TRADE 137

Chapter 18. Becoming a Writing Researcher: The Classroom as Design Inquiry 139

Chapter 19. Science Studies as Writing Studies 151

Chapter 20. Studying the Changing Genres of Science and Figuring Out How to Write about It 163

Chapter 21. Following Rhetorical Innovators: Why Were They Writing That Way? 177

Chapter 22. Edison: How to Write About Complex Multi-Dimensional Social Projects. 185

Chapter 23. Becoming a Writing Theorist: Keeping Abstractions Tied to the Ground 191

Chapter 24. Elaborating the Theory: Finding a Point to Stand On. 199

PART FIVE. PARTICIPATING IN A FIELD AND ITS FUTURE 207

Chapter 25. Editing as Writing and Developing Writing: Understanding What Others are Doing in Their Writing 209

Chapter 26. Administrative Writing: Making Genres, Actions, and Topoi Work in Institutions. 219

Chapter 27. The Production and Circulation of Environmental Knowledge: Can Historical Scholarship on Writing Effect Social Change?. 229

Chapter 28. Data Gathering and Methodology in Writing: Fact Production and Use 237

Chapter 29. Writing and Thinking: Psychiatry, Psychology, and Consciousness. 245

Chapter 30. Writing Across the Lifespan 259

Chapter 31. Learning to Write Across Borders 265

Chapter 32. Looking Backward and Writing Forward 269

References 277

Charles Bazerman Publications, Interviews, and Edited Book Series 281