

# Anna Sims

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2316 Dewey Ave

Omaha, NE 68102

## **Education**

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**Emerson College** • Boston, MA

May 2018

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Nonfiction Writing

Thesis: “Talking to Strangers,” an essay collection

Thesis Chairs: National Book Award finalist Jerald Walker

Pulitzer Prize–winning biographer Megan Marshall

**Boston University** • Boston, MA

May 2012

Dual Degree Program

*Magna Cum Laude*

Bachelor of Science in Journalism

Bachelor of Arts in English

## **Teaching Experience**

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**University of Nebraska - Lincoln: College of Journalism and Mass Communications** • Lincoln, NE

*Lecturer, January 2020 - present*

Course: Fundamentals of Editing and Reporting I

- Design and collaborate with colleagues to create assignments that teach the basics of communications writing, with a focus on grammar, AP Style, writing news stories for print and television, as well as writing for public relations and social media
- Engage in semester-long discussions on the importance of language, considering how to establish a strong brand and clear ideas for audiences while respecting fluctuating language norms and vulnerable communities
- Assign reflective essays and in-class activities that ask students to explore the processes and ethics of real news stories, including the coverage of the Boston Marathon Bomber and the use of anonymous sources in articles

Course: Special Topics - Columns and Editorials

- Developed curriculum for graduate and undergraduate students to write, revise, and pitch columns to editors, which resulted in students getting published in *The Omaha World Herald* and *The Daily Nebraskan*
- Led workshops on how to research news outlets and editors, as well as how to discover pitch calls and pitch guides online
- Hosted discussions and Q&A's with an editor from the *Lincoln Journal Star* and a freelance writer for *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine* and *Harper's Bazaar* to talk and answer student questions about the industry

**University of Nebraska - Omaha: English Department** • Omaha, NE

*Part-Time Faculty, August 2019 - present*

Course: Form and Style in Creative Nonfiction

- Design curriculum for upperclassmen course where students write essays in three genres,

- including a researched culture piece that students pitch to *Narratively* or *Catapult Magazine*
- Lead multi-day discussion on the ins-and-outs of getting published in various settings, from literary journals to commercial magazines and websites
  - Prioritize readings and discussions that highlight work from authors of color, members of the LGBTQIA community, and neurodiverse writers

Course: English Composition I

- Create lesson plans for classes that teach students how to effectively read and analyze academic texts; prioritize readings by women and voices of color; and challenge students to confront the cognitive biases of authors and themselves
- Help students develop essays from drafts to final copy while targeting skills including writing unique theses, supporting claims with specific evidence, adding nuance to paper arguments, and citing academic texts according to MLA rules
- Meet with students in groups or individually at least three times each semester to review paper drafts and discuss strategies for improving their writing

**Emerson College: Writing Studies Program • Boston, MA**

*Affiliated Faculty, May 2018 - May 2019*

*Graduate Instructor, September 2016 - May 2018*

Course: Research Writing

- Designed semester-long lesson plans for class focused on improving research skills while writing four papers, including a magazine feature
- Emphasized media literacy with weekly publication analysis assignments, as well as an end-of-semester SWOT analysis where students studied a publication of their choice
- Created diverse writing assignments that targeted skills including informative literacy, research strategies, participating in scholarly conversations, and overcoming cognitive bias

Course: Introduction to College Writing

- Designed semester-long lesson plans focused on improving essay-writing skills as well as developing critical thinking skills and genre awareness
- Met individually with students at least three times per semester to review and discuss their essays and writing progress
- Created diverse essay assignments that challenged students to abandon the five-paragraph essay and create work rooted in their own research and experiences

**Boston Architectural College: Learning and Resource Center • Boston, MA**

*Writing Consultant, September 2018 - May 2019*

- Helped undergraduate and graduate students on all stages of paper writing including developing topics, refining arguments, supporting claims with evidence, and introducing and citing sources
- Worked extensively with international students, English language learners, and non-traditional students to improve their grammar and writing skills
- Provided resume and cover letter feedback; assisted students in preparing for job and internship interviews

**Emerson College: Writing, Literature, & Publishing Dept. • Boston, MA**

*Teaching Assistant, January 2016 - May 2018*

Course: Writing for *The Boston Globe Magazine*

- Worked one-on-one with students to write and revise articles for *The Boston Globe Magazine*
- Helped students conceive and develop ideas for pitches

- Developed and led an in-class workshop on launching a freelance writing career

Course: Writing and Editing for TheCultureist.com

- Worked one-on-one with students to draft and revise articles that were published by a national travel and culture website
- Created and managed an editorial calendar that committed students to publishing three articles on TheCultureist's website every week
- Led discussions on assigned class readings about the publishing industry

*Research Assistant to Associate Professor Susanne Althoff, September 2017 - May 2018*

- Conducted research on national magazine editors and trends in preparation for panel a on the current state of women's magazines
- Solicited contact information for prominent female entrepreneurs around the country to be interviewed for professor's book
- Researched books and college courses that discuss female entrepreneurship to be included in book proposal

## **Selected Writing & Editing Experience**

### **Freelance Writer**

*September 2015 - Present*

- Pitch, report, and write features, essays, columns, and more for national and regional publications including: Shondaland, Boston Magazine, Electric Literature, Dame, The Millions, Experience Magazine, Massachusetts Lawyers Journal, and Bay State Apartment Owner

### **The Warren Group • Boston, MA**

*Associate Editor, July 2014 - August 2015*

- Assisted editorial director in managing production schedules of 20 trade publications covering finance and real estate news
- Compiled monthly statistics on single-family home and condo sales in Massachusetts and Connecticut, and used them to create press releases and web articles published across both states; researched and wrote weekly newspaper column spotlighting the history of Massachusetts towns
- Served as daily manager and instructor for editorial interns, helping them develop news article ideas and editing those articles upon completion; trained new staff for positions as associate editors, advertising coordinators, and public relations representatives

*Web Producer, April 2013 - July 2014*

- Developed and sent two daily e-newsletters to ~15,000 subscribers
- Wrote, edited, and published 12-18 web articles each morning on breaking finance and real estate news
- Created online photo galleries; assigned web stories to reporters

### **Boston Museum of Science • Boston, MA**

*Contributing Writer, May 2013 - January 2018*

- Utilized museum archives to research and conceive of article ideas to promote the Museum of Science and its history
- Conducted interviews, and wrote profiles on donors to be published in museum magazines and pamphlets
- Collaborated with editor and graphic designer to edit article drafts and design article layouts

*Advancement Communications Intern, June 2012 - April 2013*

- Wrote and edited magazine and newsletter articles as well as reports for museum donors

- Shot and selected photos for various museum publications and special events
- Attended editorial meetings; conducted and transcribed interviews

**Crushable.com** • New York, NY

*Contributing Editor & Writer for pop culture website, May 2013 - January 2015*

- Covered breaking pop culture news and movie and TV trends
- Wrote weekly television show recaps for “The Voice,” “Saturday Night Live,” and other programs
- Wrote SEO-friendly headlines and subheds; found or created images for articles

**BDCWire.com** • Boston, MA

*Contributing Writer for The Boston Globe’s youth culture website, November 2013 - May 2014*

- Wrote articles on local topics of interest, including Harvard’s sexual assault policy and a viral Twitter account
- Followed events and trends relevant to Boston-area millennials
- Conducted and transcribed interviews

**Additional Experience**

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***The Linden Review*** • Omaha, NE

Senior Book Reviews Editor for national literary magazine produced by the University of Nebraska - Omaha and the University of Nebraska Medical Center • January 2022 - present

***Ploughshares*** • Boston, MA

Nonfiction reader for national literary magazine produced by Emerson College • June 2016 - June 2017

***Redivider*** • Boston, MA

Nonfiction reader for student-run national literary magazine at Emerson College • January 2016 - May 2016

***New York Family*** • New York, NY

Contributing Writer for parenting magazine • May 2013 - February 2014  
 Editorial Intern • January 2013 - April 2013

***Truth*** • Boston, MA

Managing Editor for LGBTQ+ people of color lifestyle magazine • July 2012 - April 2013

**Da Capo Press, Perseus Books Group** • Boston, MA

Publicity Intern • September 2012 - December 2012

**Book & Anthology Publications**

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“On ‘Booksmart,’ Rewriting the Narrative of the Teenage Girl,” *Isn’t She Great: Essays on Female-Led Comedies*, edited by Elizabeth Teets, Read Furiously Press, forthcoming January 2024

*50th Anniversary: The Bradford Washburn Award*, commemorative book published by the Boston Museum of Science, 2015 (Co-author)

**Selected Article Publications**

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“The Rise and Fall of 21st Century Feminism, as told through *The Real Housewives*,” *Electric Literature*, forthcoming October 2023

“Teachers Play an Important Role In the History of Witch Hunts” *Dame Magazine*, October 2022

“Review: ‘Some of My Best Friends’ by Tajja Isen,” *The Linden Review*, August 2022

“It’s Time to Destigmatize Talking Openly About What’s Going On Down There,” *Electric Literature*, May 2022

“Review: ‘Supremely Tiny Acts’ by Sonya Huber,” *The Linden Review*, May 2022

“Review: ‘My Body Is a Big Fat Temple’ by Alena Dillon,” *The Linden Review*, February 2022

“Why ‘The Plot Against America’ Feels Especially Timely,” *Shondaland*, June 2020

“Modern Feminism’s Big Lie: On ‘Fleishman Is in Trouble,’” *The Millions*, February 2020

“The Best Party in Town?: All of a sudden, socialism is cool again. But is anyone actually interested in a revolution?” *Boston Magazine*, February 2019

“I thought I was Mary Poppins. Then I got in front of a classroom,” *Experience Magazine*, January 2019

“Busting the Credit Union Myths,” *CenterPoint Magazine*, Summer 2018

“A New Experience: As Trials Diminish, New Lawyers Need Additional Options To Hone Courtroom Skills,” *Massachusetts Lawyers Journal*, January/February 2018

“Dispute Resolution Drops the ‘A,’” *Massachusetts Lawyers Journal*, May/June 2016

“Caring for the Community,” *CenterPoint Magazine*, Winter 2016

“How Student Groups Are Working to Change Harvard’s Old-School Sexual Abuse Policy,” *BDCWire.com*, May 2014

“How to House a Changing City,” *Bay State Apartment Owner*, Winter 2014

“The Passionate Learner: Educator helps students harness the power of their natural strengths,” *New York Family*, January 2014

“The STEMs Of Discovery: SciTech Kids makes scientific learning fun and intriguing for children,” *New York Family*, April 2013

“Openly and Honestly: How David Wilson stopped living in shame and started fighting for marriage equality,” *Truth Magazine*, September 2012

### **Professional Development**

Selected via writing sample and book proposal for a three-month mentorship with Chloe Caldwell, a memoirist and essayist with work in *The New York Times*, *New York Magazine*, and *The Cut*  
*October 2022 - January 2023*

Selected via instructor for fully-funded scholarship to participate in “Advanced Group Pitching” class with

journalist Caroline Shannon-Karasik  
*March 2022 - July 2022*

Participated in Catapult Magazine's class, "6-Week Online Nonfiction Workshop: Getting Published"  
*January 2022 - February 2022*

Completed training at "Techniques for Teaching Writing," a workshop led by University of Nebraska - Omaha First-Year Writing faculty to help instructors develop new ideas for improving students' peer reviews and ability to reflect on and learn from their own writing  
*November 2021*

Completed training at University of Nebraska - Omaha's English Department retreat, focused on creating more accessible classrooms that better assist students studies with learning disabilities and students struggling with mental health issues  
*September 2019*

Selected via writing sample for Lighthouse Writer's Workshop Advanced Weekend Intensive: Your Voice in Nonfiction, taught by *New York Times* bestselling author Sloane Crosley  
*June 2019*

Completed training at "Information Literacy Frame of Mind," a workshop designed to help instructors improve students' research and information literacy skills, led by staff at Emerson College's Iwasaki Library  
*May 2019*

Attended Grub Street's "Muse and the Marketplace," a national writing conference in Boston  
*April 2018*

Participated in the Boston Rhetoric and Writing Network Summer Institute, a two-day training event for writing professors across New England  
*June 2017*

## **Service & Committee Work**

### **University of Nebraska - Omaha First-Year Writing Textbook Committee**

Collaborate with composition instructors in the English Department to develop a revised edition of the college's Composition I textbook

Lead a Textbook Committee subcommittee tasked with creating a new chapter on health, which involves finding readings, creating essay prompts and writing exercises, creating pre- and post-reading discussion questions, and piloting new chapter materials

*January 2022 - present*

### **Boston Architectural College Conversation Partners**

Met weekly with international student from China to help her improve her English and better understand U.S. culture

*September 2018 - June 2019*

### **Emerson College Writing Studies Program Showcase Committee**

Planned ~300-guest event that showcased the writing of freshman students and created audience-engagement activities

*Member, September 2018 - May 2019*

*Leader, September 2017 - May 2018*

**Emerson College Writing Studies Program Assistant**

Selected by Emerson College Writing Program Director to collect and organize instructor feedback regarding Research Writing course curriculum in preparation for a course revamp, and to assist with administrative needs including distributing information to and updating materials for instructors

*August 2017 - May 2018*

**Emerson College First-Year Writing Program WR121: Research Writing Working Group**

Worked with program administrators and other professors to develop materials for new instructors and to design a more cohesive curriculum for WR121 classes

*Member, October 2017 - January 2018*