

Writing, Memory, and Revision

A *Palimpsest* Workshop



What Is a Palimpsest?

A palimpsest is a page rewritten over time, yet earlier traces are still visible.
It records revision and layering rather than replacement and erasure.

Memory works the same way

Memory is not fixed

Each time we recall something, we subtly alter it through our changed self

Retelling revises meaning

The story shifts with perspective and distance

Time changes understanding

What felt urgent once may seem distant now

Writing as Revision

Writing is not recording

When we write about our memories, we don't simply transcribe what happened. We interpret, select, and shape through our changed selves.

Writing is interpretation

Every act of writing is an act of making meaning: choosing what to keep, what to let fade, and what to say without speaking.

As we learn and grow, we revise our thoughts and ideas to reveal things we could not see before.

Why This Matters

In our own lives, we often tell stories to survive, editing out what feels unbearable.

Sometimes, we attempt to communicate something very personal through language, seeking shared understanding.

In creative writing, we can develop entirely new narratives. We decide what to preserve, what to erase, what to rewrite, as well as whose perspective to speak from.

Although this session focuses on writing craft and reflection (not personal disclosure) it can be a very self-reflexive way to think about how our own minds work in responding to scenarios and make us stronger.

What Is *Palimpsest*?

A curated literary project

Palimpsest is a curated space for short writing and letters responding to shared prompts. Participation and submission are optional.

Shared writing prompts

We provide prompts designed to encourage reflection, revision, and experimentation in writing.

Selected publication

Submissions are read carefully, and some pieces are shared as part of the *Palimpsest* archive.

Visit us at palimpsest.digital to explore published work and learn more about submission guidelines.

Session Structure

01

One idea

We begin by introducing a concept related to memory, revision, or storytelling.

03

One writer

Individual, focused, and without distraction or pressure for 10-15 mins.

No subject expertise or preparation is required to run this session.

02

One prompt

A focused writing prompt invites you to explore that concept in your own words.

04

Optional sharing

At the end, anyone who wishes may share what they have written.

Writing Prompt

“Erasure

Write a memory in full. Look at the word count. Then delete thirty per cent of it—words, sentences. You cannot change the phrasing. Read what remains. What new meaning emerges from absence?

Alternative Prompt

Rewrite a memory twice

Choose a memory—something small, something that matters. Write it as you understood it at the time it happened.

Then, a little while later, write it again, as you understand it now. Notice what has changed. Notice what remains.

Sharing (Optional)

If you would like to share what you have written, you are welcome to do so. Sharing is entirely voluntary.

Listening carefully without judging or criticising.

Not everything needs to be explained or discussed.

Submitting Work

Short writing or letters

We accept original writing and letters responding to published pieces.

Anonymous submissions allowed

You may choose to publish under your name or anonymously.

Publication only

Some submissions are curated for the archive. Writing remains valuable regardless of publication.

Submit your work at palimpsest.digital. We look forward to reading what you create.

Letters to the Archive

Writing continues after reading

Palimpsest invites readers to respond to published work by writing letters—not reviews, but thoughtful, personal responses.

Dialogue, not judgement

These letters create a conversation between writer and reader, honouring the work whilst extending its life.

Letters are published alongside the original pieces, forming a layered archive of response and reflection. Letters may respond to an image, idea, question, or moment in a piece.



Closing Thought

We are always rewriting ourselves. Some traces are worth keeping.

Thank you for your time and attention. We hope you will continue to write, revise, and share your work with the *Palimpsest* community.