Harrington Shares His Craft of Storytelling  
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Walt Harrington is a former _Washington Post Magazine_ writer and currently a journalism professor at the University of Illinois. The author of ten books, he has become a leading voice in the field of long-form storytelling. Three of his more notable titles are _Intimate Journalism: The Art and Craft of Reporting Everyday Life, Crossings: A White Man’s Journey into Black America_, and _The Everlasting Stream: A True Story of Rabbits, Guns, Friendship and Family._

_Artful Journalism_ is a collection of essays that he has written over many years for various publications. Some of them have a specific how-to approach, such as the chapters on writing profiles and memoirs. Some focus on specific techniques, such as “Attending to Detail, Striving for Meaning.”

If there is a unifying theme to _Artful Journalism_, he summarizes it in this quote from a chapter on “intimate journalism.” Harrington writes: “The intimate stories of ordinary life—about the behavior, motives, feelings, faiths, attitudes, grievance, hopes, fears and accomplishment of people as they seek meaning and purpose in their lives, stories that are windows on our universal human struggle—should be at the soul of our journalism.”

Other chapters include “When Writing about Yourself Is Still Journalism,” “What Journalists Can Teach Ethnographers,” and “The Journalist’s Haiku.” Some of the chapters consist of interviews with Harrington published by the IRE Journal and The Poynter Institute.

The strength of _Artful Journalism_ consists in the depth of detail that Harrington brings from decades of journalism experience. He speaks in the brotherly voice of “one reporter telling another how it’s done.” I would recommend this book as a supplementary text for courses in narrative writing or literary journalism.