



*Dream of
Travel Writing*

The Art of the Essay and How to Find Them Everywhere

by Gabi Logan, founder of Dream of Travel Writing

A blurred background image of a coffee shop setting. In the foreground, there is a white cup of coffee with a saucer and a spoon. To the left, a smartphone is visible. In the background, there is a vase of purple flowers and a white napkin. The text "Today, we're going to talk about..." is overlaid in the center.

Today, we're going to
talk about...

1. What do we mean by “essay?”
2. How to compose a personal essay
3. How essays fit into the greater marketplace and how the opportunities have changed since the advent of blogging
4. Markets you can reach out to right now for your personal essays





Before we get this train moving...

What is an an essay? An op-ed? A first-person piece? A non-fiction short story?

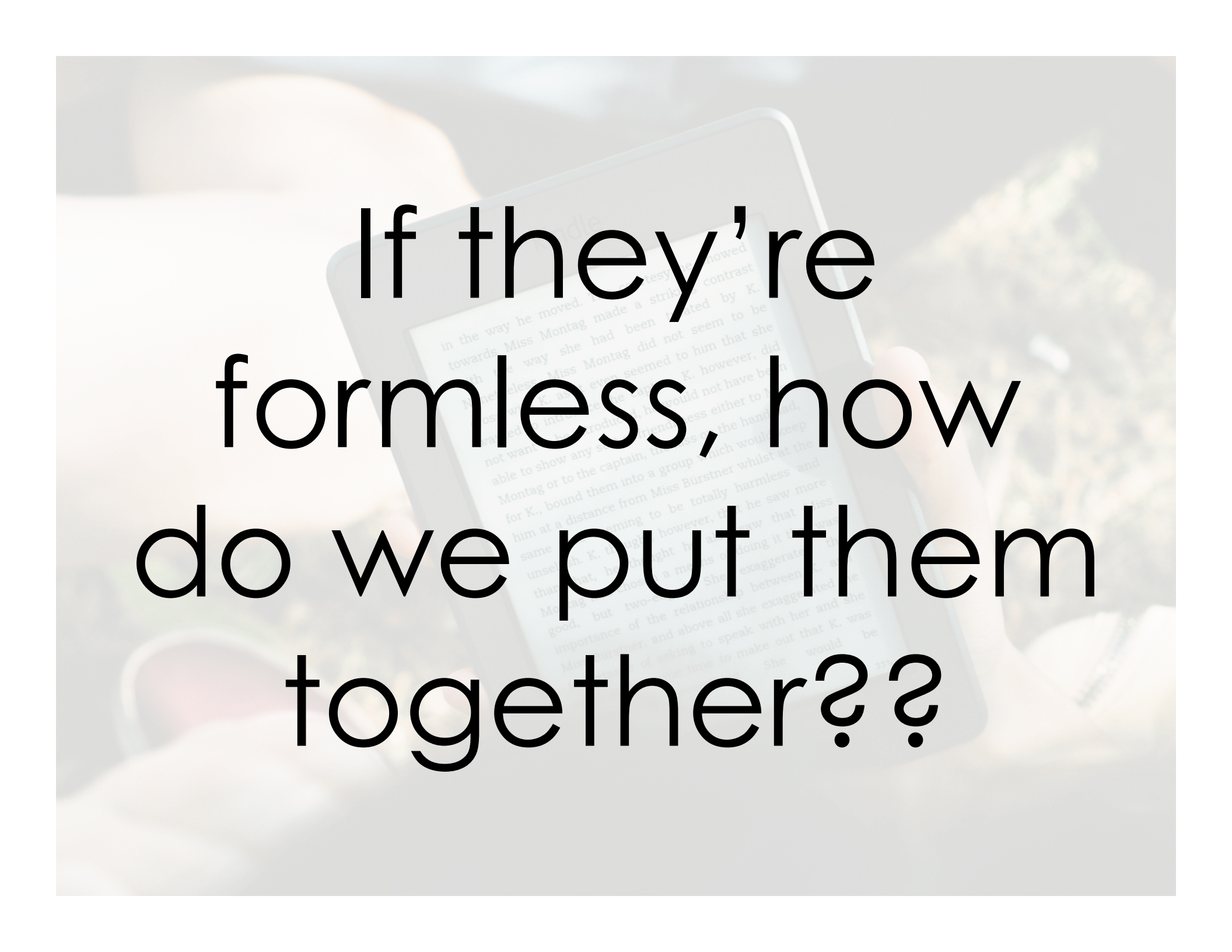
“The personal essay has always been a **stepchild of serious literature**, seemingly formless, hard to classify. Lacking the tight construction of a short story or the narrative arc of a novel or memoir, such essays have given readers pleasure without winning cultural respect.”

Essays are Inherently Different than Many Forms We've Looked at Before

- A theme rather than a point or objective
- How is it different than:
 - Narrative
 - Journalism
 - Diary

Recommend Reading

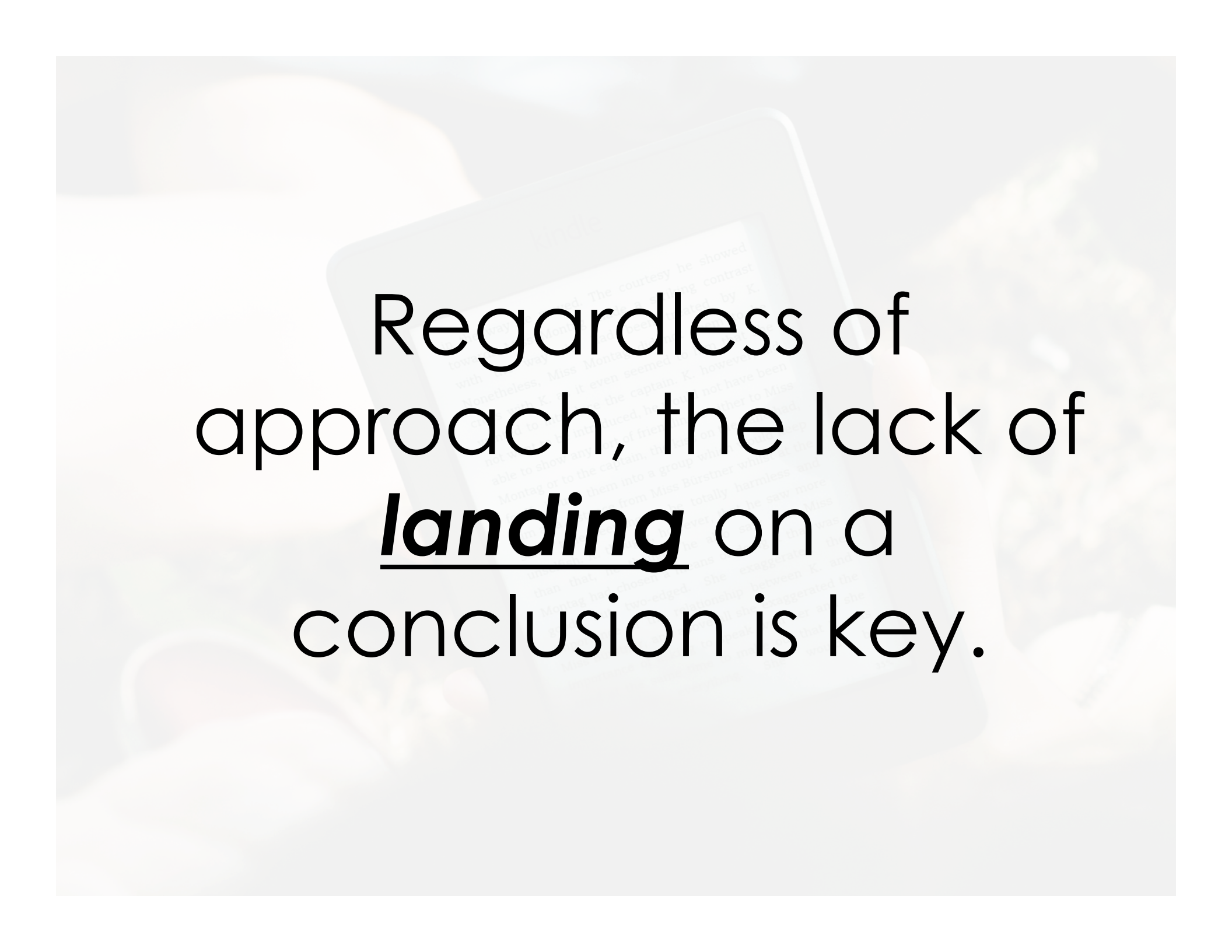
- Phillip Lopate
 - *The Art of the Personal Essay*
 - *To Show and to Tell*
- *New York Times* Essay-writing Lessons Plans
 - <https://mobile.nytimes.com/2016/10/20/learning/lesson-plans/from-lives-to-modern-love-writing-personal-essays-with-help-from-the-new-york-times.html>
- Salon.com essay section

A hand is holding a tablet computer. The screen of the tablet displays several lines of text, which appears to be a passage from a book. The text on the screen is partially obscured by the large text overlaid on the image. The background is a blurred desk with a lamp and some papers.

If they're
formless, how
do we put them
together??

Five Approaches

- time dilation to give weight to the present
- larger societal complications of a singular incident
- object lessons
- vignettes:
 - “The personal essays that open the book are like snapshots, a memoir by glimpses, each from a different angle”
- about the questioning process
 - “The ultimate question may not be, What is the correct critical judgment to make of a particular film? but, What are our different needs and understandings at various stages in life?”

A hand is holding a tablet computer. The screen of the tablet shows some faint, illegible text. Overlaid on the tablet is a large text block in black font. The text reads: "Regardless of approach, the lack of landing on a conclusion is key." The word "landing" is underlined and in a bold, italicized font.

Regardless of approach, the lack of landing on a conclusion is key.

A person is sitting at a desk in a bright office with large windows. The person is wearing a light-colored top and is looking down at their work. The desk has a laptop, a water bottle, and some papers. The background shows a large window with a view of a city skyline.

If it it doesn't
make you
uncomfortable,
it's not honest.

A person is standing in a vast, open mountain valley, looking out over a range of mountains under a bright, hazy sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a strong lens flare and casting a warm, golden light over the scene. The foreground is a grassy field with some rocks, and the background features several mountain peaks, some with patches of snow or light-colored rock. The overall atmosphere is serene and contemplative.

You've got one?

Now what??

Markets

- Newspapers
- Women's magazines
- Columns
- Back-of-book sections of major mags, especially airlines
- Independent magazines

Thanks so much
for joining us today!

It was a pleasure chatting
travel writing with you 😊

Have a follow up question on this webinar? Email questions@dreamoftravelwriting.com and we'll cover it in an upcoming webinar or in our Monday reader mailbag post on the Six-Figure Travel Writer blog.

