

ENGL 318: Topics in Creative Writing: Short Forms & Lyric Moments
Professor Mary Ann Samyn
Fall 2026
W 4-6:50 pm

“If I had had more time, I would have written a shorter letter.” — Blaise Pascal

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Why does writing shorter often take more time?

In this class, we will think about that
as we focus on short forms across genres—

the 10-line poem
the six-line poem
haiku
the two-line poem
flash fiction (under 1500 words)
sudden fiction (100-750 words)
micro fiction (under 500 words)
the drabble (exactly 100 words)
the dribble (50 words)
the six-word story
flash nonfiction (300-1000 words)

—and consider how the lyric moment
—that is, the vertical moment of
emotional intensity, poignancy, timelessness,
the epiphanic, the sublime—
might be discovered/uncovered/delved into
via the succinctness that these short forms require.

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Questions? Email me: maryann.samyn@mail.wvu.edu