

DANIELS FUND
ETHICS INITIATIVE
Collegiate Program



College of Business
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **COLORADO SPRINGS**

The Ethics of Writing

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The Ethics of Writing

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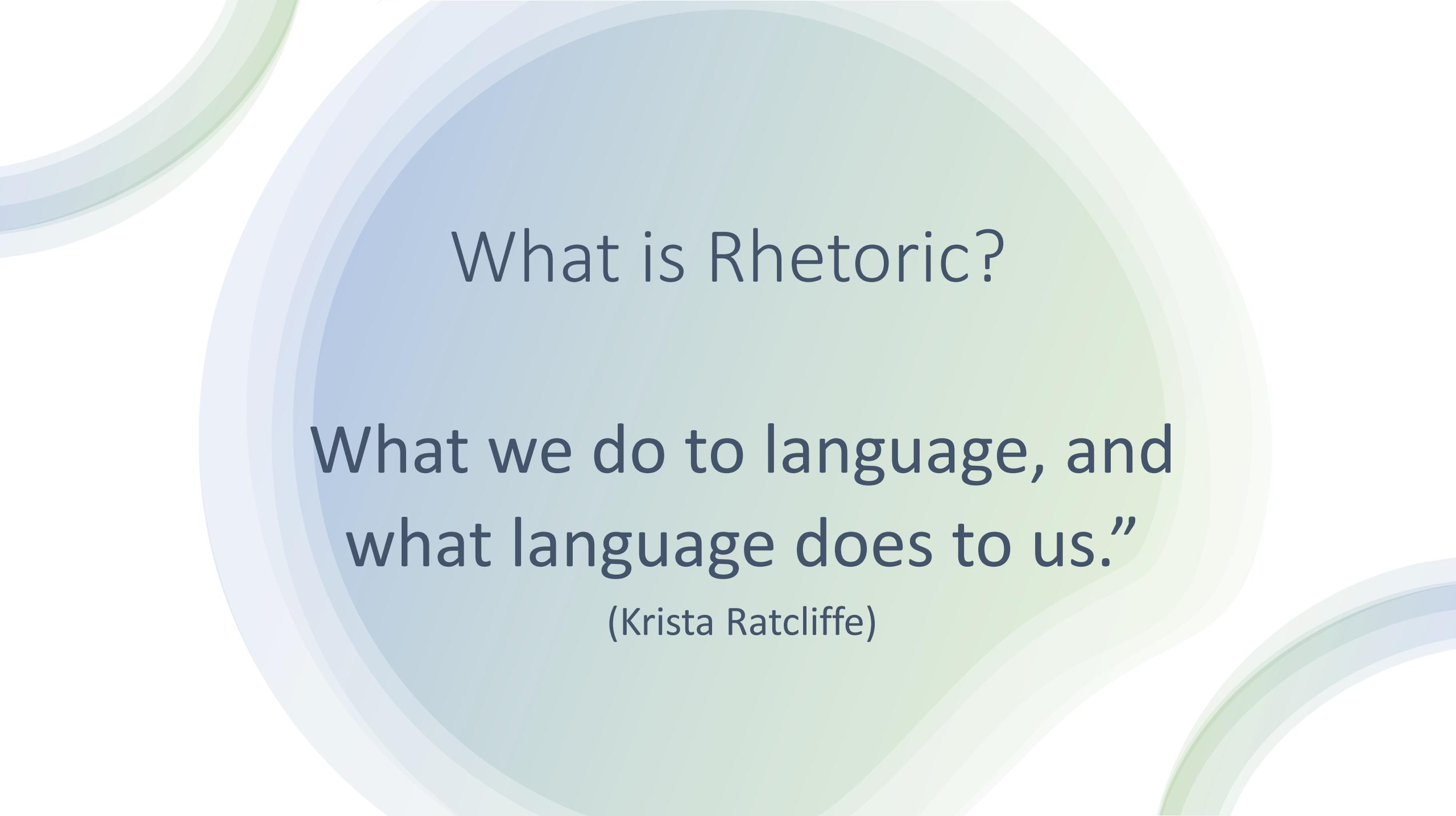
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What is Rhetoric?

What we do to language, and
what language does to us.”

(Krista Ratcliffe)

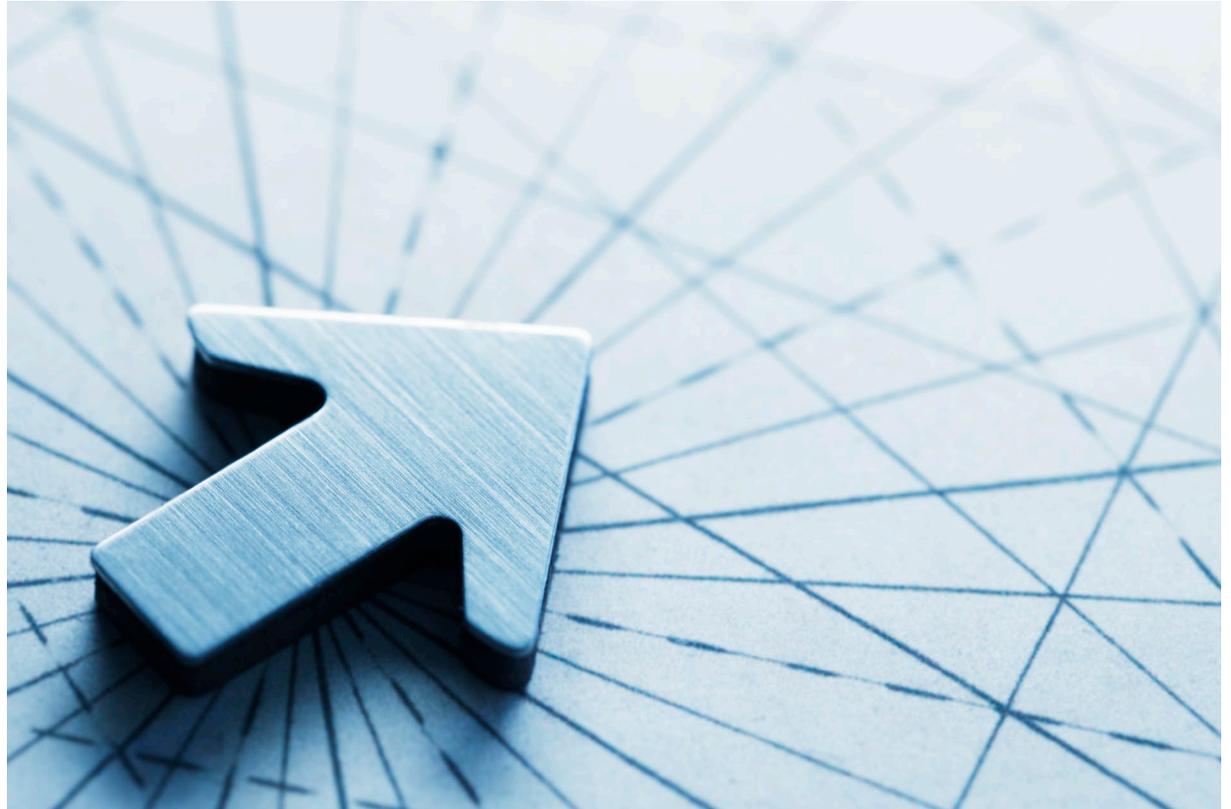
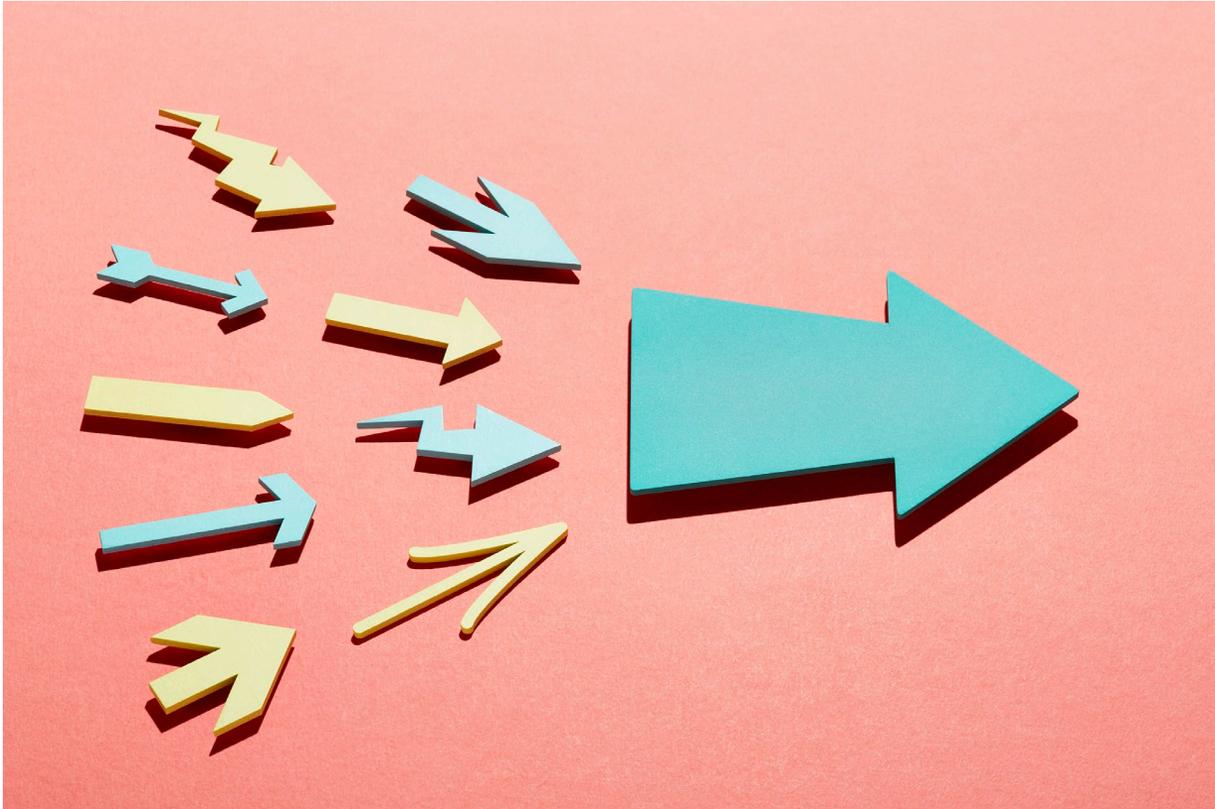


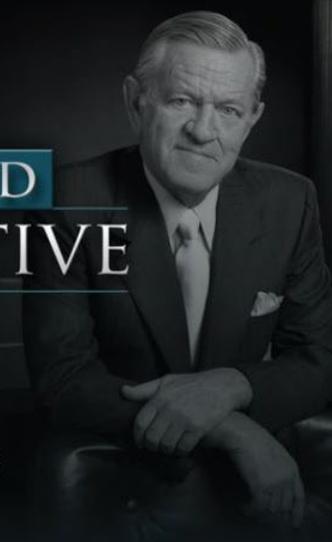
What Does Ethics Have to Do with Writing?

“[In writing,] we invite an exchange
between others and ourselves”
(Duffy 116).

“Writing involves ethical choices”
(Duffy 11)

John Duffy’s *Provocations of Virtue:
Rhetoric, Ethics, and the Teaching of
Writing* (2022)





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PRINCIPLES

Integrity

Act with honesty in all situations

Trust

Build trust in all stakeholder relationships

Accountability

Accept responsibility for all decisions

Transparency

Maintain open and truthful communications

Fairness

Engage in fair competition and create equitable
and just relationships

Respect

Honor the rights, freedoms, views, and property of others

Rule of Law

Comply with the spirit and intent of laws and regulations

Viability

Create long-term value for all relevant stakeholders



Virtue Ethics

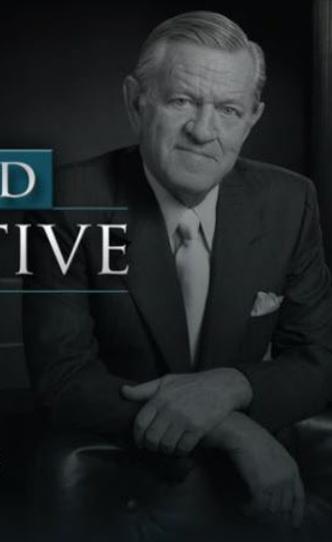
“The virtuous speaker and writer is not guided by codes or rules but knows which virtues to enact, in which settings, for which reasons” (323)

From John Duffy, John Gallagher, and Steve Holmes’s “Introduction: Virtue Ethics,” *Rhetoric Review* Vol. 37., no. 4, 2018. p. 321- 392



(Some) Virtue Ethics

- *Phronesis* (practical wisdom)
- Open-mindedness
- Intellectual Humility
- Nuance



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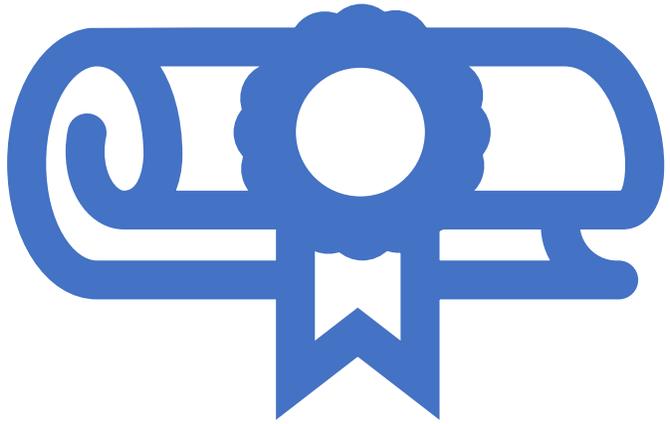
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“The virtues offer as well, should we choose to speak and write it, a language we might share with our students.” (323)

From John Duffy, John Gallagher, and Steve Holmes’s “Introduction: Virtue Ethics,” *Rhetoric Review* Vol. 37., no. 4, 2018. p. 321- 392



- What kinds of writing happen in your disciplinary or professional context?
- What ethical conundrums related to writing emerge in your context?
- What additional questions or nuancing of the DFEI principles does your context require?

The Ethical Inclusion of the Personal

Does attending to the personal reinforce and cultivate
DFEI principles and virtue ethics?



ENGL 4880:

The Rhetoricity of the Personal

- Epistemological
- Rhetorical
- Ethical

"Punk and dazzling and so remarkably human . . .
like watching firecrackers go off." — JIA TOLENTINO

The Undocumented Americans

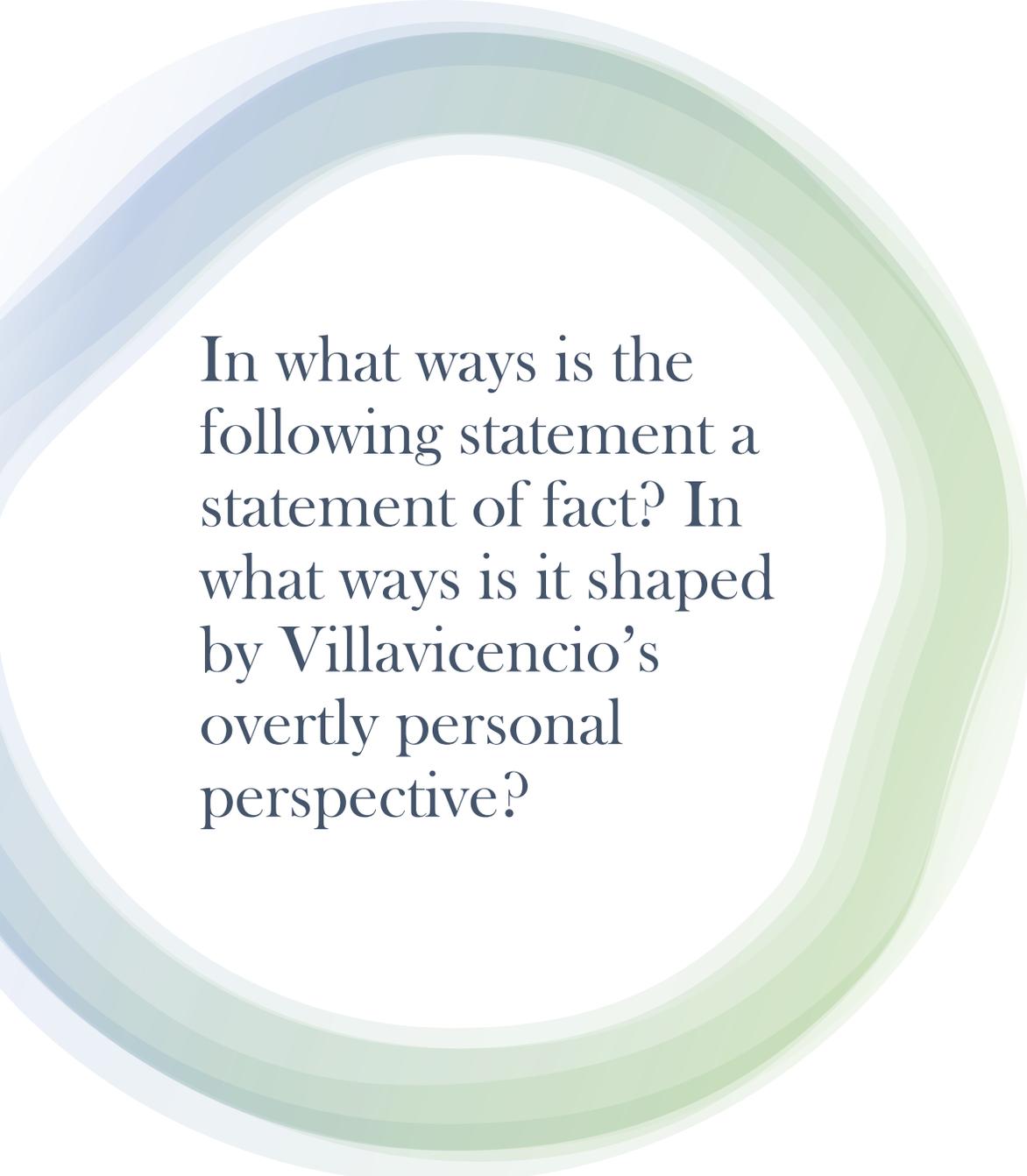


Karla Cornejo Villavicencio

“highly personal and deeply empathetic perspective” --- *Publisher's Weekly*

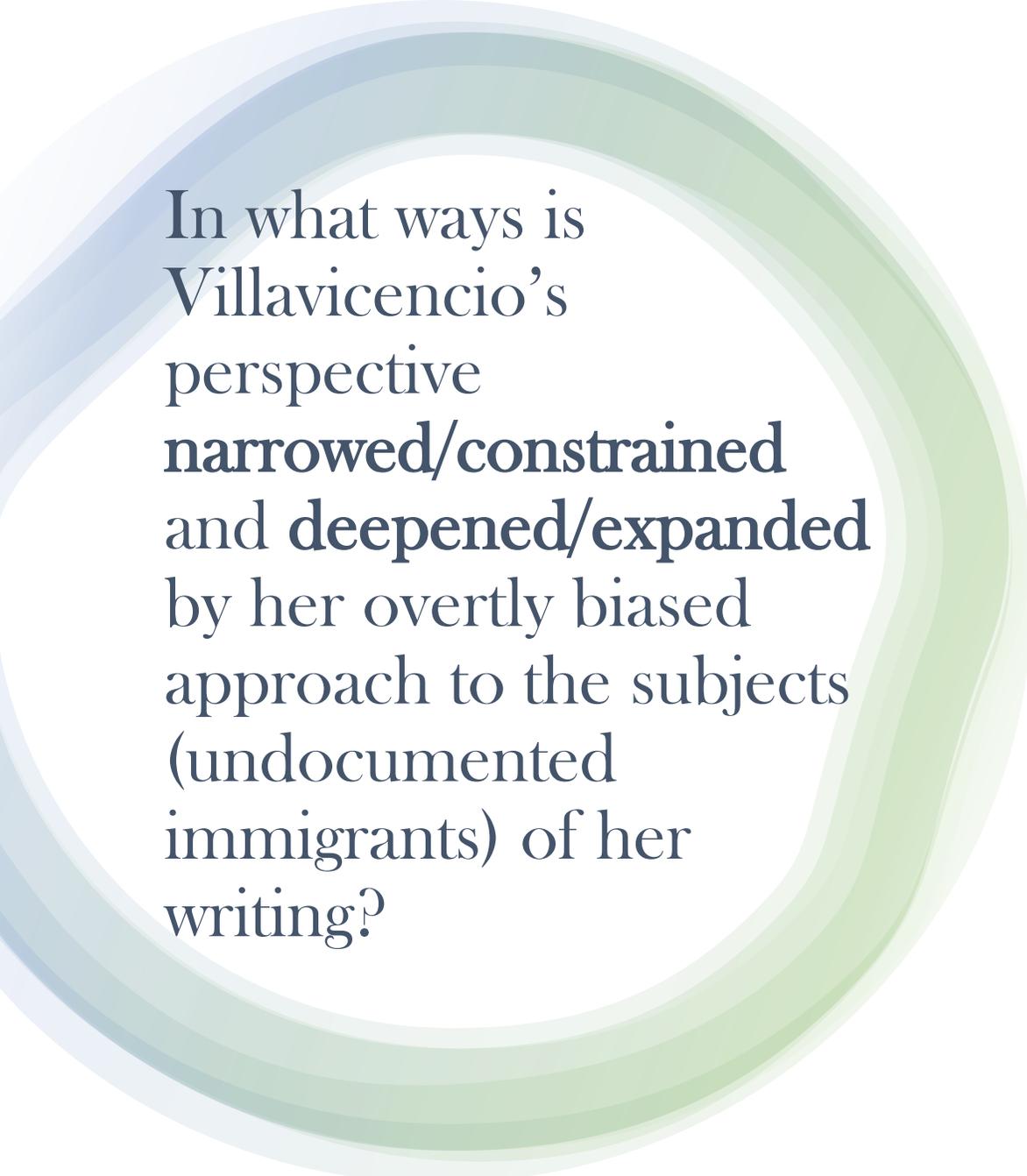
“memoir-infused reported essays” --- *New York Times Book Review*

“A welcome addition to the literature on immigration told by an author who understands the issue like few others.” — *Kirkus Reviews*



In what ways is the following statement a statement of fact? In what ways is it shaped by Villavicencio's overtly personal perspective?

“They have all experienced racist abuse and wage theft at the hand of their employers, are all owed thousands of dollars by white men who made them work for days, promised payment, then simply disappeared” (10).



In what ways is Villavicencio's perspective **narrowed/constrained** and **deepened/expanded** by her overtly biased approach to the subjects (undocumented immigrants) of her writing?

“I see my father’s face in their every one, and I know that this astigmatism will always be with me; the light will always fall this way” (13).



Your Turn!

Attending to the personal would enhance, undermine, or X the practice of ethical writing in my disciplinary or professional context.