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COMMENTS TO EDITOR: Although this piece (probably a prose poem) got negative reviews from people I respect, it is also true that the author is previously published, an editor in her own right, and an active advocate for the narrative essay section. She has definite skills as a writer, although they are not in strong evidence in this submission. I recommend she have the opportunity to revision the work and resubmit.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: We are very interested in the idea of this piece. However, as both reviewers indicated, it needs a major revisioning in order to be published. The generality and lack of specificity in the images (too many abstractions) harm the impact of the writing. Also, the repetition of the phrase "I write," instead of being powerful, became predictable. Perhaps this should be an essay rather than a (prose) poem? In any case, coming up with compelling images and specific details that ground your obvious passion for writing could help bring this work to life. As it is, readers who write (or want to write) may identify with this list, but they will likely not be moved or inspired or motivated by it to put fingers to keyboard.

COMMENTS TO EDITOR II: I recommend sending this essay back for some further work. This is the second revision we've requested (technically, this is submitted as a new article, but we previously saw a version in poetic form). Reviewer 2 makes some important points worth considering, specifically to provide more details about what the process of writing is like for her, and how it helps her work through clinical and personal challenges.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR II: Dear Colleen, thank you for this essay. We were moved by its authentic, heartfelt quality. You have a wonderful ability to share your journey in a way that allows readers to connect with and be encouraged by it. We are suggesting a few relatively minor revisions.

First, please consider reviewer 1's 3 very small suggestions. It is up to you, but reviewer 1 suggests you change wording on pg. 4, as she doesn't see how stories can "beg." I beg to differ - in my view, stories beg, cajole, and sometimes threaten us! The "Joining this group... (p. 6)" sentence might be reworded slightly: "The group helped channel the limited energy I had going through treatment toward listening to myself better."

Reviewer 2 has a more substantive concern. We do not entirely agree with this critique. However, she makes an extremely valuable point in defining the central thesis of the essay as "the author's relationship with writing as a way to process challenges." We think the essay could be further strengthened if, within the examples you already give, you elaborate on them somewhat to emphasize **IN WHAT WAYS SPECIFICALLY** the writing process was helpful to you.

In addition, please consider shortening the introductory sections about your journey through writing (college seminar-volunteer work-family of origin writing). These are interesting, and obviously have contributed to who you are as a writer, but if you could condense them, you could move more quickly to your writing as a family physician, which is the heart of the essay.

COMMENTS TO EDITOR III: The author has done an excellent job of making requested revisions and thinking through the challenges posed by reviewer 2 to strengthen and focus the essay. I recommend accepting this piece for the special issue on writing.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR III: This essay takes us, the readers, on a personal and professional journey anchored by writing. It now is focused around a clearly identifiable theme, i.e., the role of writing in reflecting on and working through personal and professional challenges. The summary sentences connected to each vignette are very helpful, as are the lines added to the final paragraph. The writing throughout is eloquent and authentic. The essay tells a story that I suspect will inspire many other would-be writers.