

EMILLY PRADO

SPEAKING TOPICS & WORKSHOPS



BIO Emily Prado is an award-winning writer, educator, and DJ living in Portland, Oregon with roots in the San Francisco Bay Area. Her debut essay collection, *Funeral for Flaca*, has been called, “Utterly vulnerable, bold, and unique,” by Ms. Magazine and is a winner of the 2022 Pacific Northwest Book Award, and a 2021 finalist for the Big Other Book Award for Nonfiction and Foreward INDIES Book of the Year in two categories: Essays and Multicultural Nonfiction. As a multimedia journalist, Emily spent half a decade independently reporting on a wide range of topics, most often centered on amplifying the voices and experiences of people from historically marginalized communities. Her writing and photographs have appeared in more than 30 publications including NPR, Marie Claire, Bitch Media, and Eater. She is a

Tin House and Las Dos Brujas Workshop alumna, Blackburn Fellow and MFA Candidate at Randolph College, and moonlights as DJ Mami Miami with Noche Libre, the Latinx DJ collective she co-founded in 2017. Learn more at www.emillyprado.com or @emillyprado on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.

KEYNOTES AND TALKS

Below you'll find the titles and descriptions of multimedia keynotes I offer, best suited for 30 to 60-minute time frames. All topics can be customized in scope and length for your event and audience.

Finding My Way to *Funeral for Flaca*

Author Emily Prado will share the evolving nature of finding her path as a writer, drawing upon her experiences as a first-generation Chicana and college student, and self-proclaimed troublemaker who struggled with school and mental health. Attendees will hear a reading from *Funeral for Flaca* and view archival childhood photographs to better understand how 13-year-old Emily found strength through music and writing.

Crafting *Funeral for Flaca*

In this talk, author Emily Prado delves into the creation process for her award-winning book, *Funeral for Flaca*, which debuted as a handmade chapbook before it was published and expanded by the press, Future Tense Books. She'll share the various stages of the process including writing, research, revision, and artistic collaborations, as well as the importance of self-advocacy and intersectionality in publishing, particularly for writers of marginalized identities. Plus, hear Emily give a reading from her book.

In Conversation

An interviewer, selected by the hosting organization, leads a conversation with the author about her writing journey, *Funeral for Flaca*, and other relevant topics. This program typically includes a reading and time for an audience Q&A. Best suited for events seeking a conversational tone. Pairs well with a workshop.

Carving Your Own Squiggly Path

To get from point A to point B, we often imagine a straight line. For those raised within the U.S. school system, we're taught to answer the question of what we want to be when we grow up from a young age. The pressure to know and decide can feel heightened and sometimes constricting in college. In this talk, author, DJ, and educator Emilly Prado will share her story of college as a first-generation student and of carving a career path of her own. Attendees will engage in contemplative writing exercises, and we'll discuss the importance of wandering, reflecting, and exploring.

Everywhere You Go, There You Are

Emilly Prado, author of the memoir-in-essays, *Funeral for Flaca*, delves into her personal story of navigating mental health in this talk that is honest and approachable. After a trauma-informed introduction encouraging boundaries, safety, and a baseline for the conversation, she shares her experience of combatting external and internal stigmas, fear, and shame after diagnoses with depression, bipolar disorder, and C-PTSD with the help of writing, therapy, and other vital resources as a first-generation Mexican American in search of balance and acceptance.

BEGINNER WORKSHOPS

*I'm a trained educator with more than a decade of experience leading workshops for students of all ages ranging in topic and scope. The classes below are best suited for 45 to 120-minute time frames but can be customized to suit your needs. **Don't see the topic you're looking for?** I create new curricula often and do so often for clients, so feel free to ask about any subject you want covered and we can discuss.*

GENERATIVE WRITING

Seeding the Senses: A Creative Writing Workshop in Scene

In this generative writing workshop, we'll leverage the senses to conjure the past and mine memories to create "seeds" from which further creative work may grow. This creative nonfiction workshop is open to all levels and genres, and will invite writers to invoke memories of smell, taste, touch, sight, and sound to enrich our scene writing. Come ready to write, converse, and share—without judgement and with the special community we'll shape during our time together.

Power through Personal Reflection

This interactive session will guide attendees in developing their own journaling practice through multimedia play, reflection, and a brief history of the diary form. Gain hands-on experience with various journaling techniques, methods, and approaches, discuss the differences between creative writing and journaling, and learn more about the research-backed impacts the practice offers to individuals' memory, mindfulness, healing, and overall health. Come with an open mind and leave with new insight on what works for you. Led by Emilly Prado, an author who discovered the power of her voice, and love of writing, through journaling as a teenager.

Memory & Memoir

In this generative intensive, we'll exercise, explore, and spark the memory aspect of memoir using personal objects, music, food, sketching, and more. We'll consider the concepts of memory, truth, and authenticity in personal writing. Together, we'll apply these concepts as we write in short bursts and create the seeds of new pieces that can be returned to and cultivated down the line.

Table Talk: Finding Narratives through Food

Stories live within our bodies, persist within our bones—some stories are old, passed down through many generations, while others are new or, perhaps, yet to be born. Much in the same vein, we will use the rich and complex traditions of food as a catalyst for our stories. In this workshop, we will mine memories and explore creative writing exercises that evoke the sensory and highlight emotionality to bring out the salty, sweet, and saucy details to the page. Get inspired by excerpts of brilliant food writers and anecdotes shared by your fellow attendees. Walk away with the seeds of your own work.

Let's Make Zines

Zines (pronounced “zeens”) have provided a radical platform for people to share about the things they care deeply, without external permission, in a unique, artistic form that dates back to the 1500s. Retrace zine history and produce your own zine using the cut-and-paste Xerox techniques popularized with the advent of punk rock in this hands-on workshop with Emilly Prado. Whether your preferred medium is poetry, prose, or anything and everything in between, it all goes in zine-making!

Intensive: Personal Essay Writing 101

Ideal length: 2+ hours, best suited for multiple sessions

We all have stories, but where do we start when trying to get our own experiences down on the page? Students will be guided through the personal essay writing process step-by-step. We'll build upon the fundamentals of creative nonfiction in a supportive, respectful setting and draw inspiration as diligent readers. Invest in your writing, learn to overcome your fear of the blank page, generate new ideas and reawaken resting ones, share space with a new community of writers, and challenge yourself to write all the way to an ending.

Intensive: Freelance Writing 101

Ideal length: 2-4 hours

Build the foundations for your future in freelance writing in this workshop intensive focused on journalism, cultural critique, and magazine writing and led by Emilly Prado, an award-winning journalist and author whose work has appeared in more than 30 publications including NPR, Bitch Media, and Eater. Whether you're looking for a career change, side hustle, or simply want to share your voice, you'll find the tools you need to support you in understanding the industry, developing story ideas, navigating the pitching process, and learning more about business aspects including finances, systems of organization, and marketing.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Write the Perfect Bio

Tackle the to-do list item that's been holding you back: writing your bio. Learn the ins and outs of professional bio writing through the analysis of examples, feedback from peers, and templates to help ease the process. We'll discuss barriers that may be holding us back, and you'll walk away with at least one revised bio that's authentic and perfect for you.

Create Your Own Website

Decisions abound when it comes to creating a website from what information to include to color scheme selection to when the time is right. But you don't have to navigate the overwhelm alone, or even start from scratch! Treat this professional development intensive as a work session and sign the time is right for you

to create your own website. We'll review popular platforms and delve into resources together including organization strategies, image sourcing, copywriting, and a handy checklist for every step along the way.

DIY Creative Retreat

Artist residences offer attendees a chance to meet other artists, carve out space for their work, and slow down. These often come with a high price tag, from application fees which support the organizations to program fees which keep the facilities running. If you're like many artists, you might not be able to afford to pay in order to take time off from work to dedicate to your craft. Luckily, there are alternative paths to creating a writing retreat tailored just for you. In this class, we'll explore abundant options for planning your own DIY creative retreat with consideration to cost, location, duration, care-taking responsibilities, creating a schedule, and more.

INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED

CRAFT INTENSIVE TOPICS

Ideal length: 2-4 hours

- Tone + Voice in Memoir
- Exploring Essay Forms
- Visualizing Your Essay
- Research in Memoir

WORKSHOPS

Visualizing the Essay

Ideal length: 2+ hours, can be extended over multiple sessions

Explore the power of visual tools like drawing, highlighting, and sketching and find techniques to apply at any stage of your personal narrative writing process. This intermediate workshop will guide students through brainstorming, plotting, group workshopping, and revision methods driven by visual art. Students are expected to come to class with at least one completed essay draft.

Applying Design Fundamentals to Zines

Ideal length: 2-6 hours, can be split over two sessions

Whether you make (or dream of making) zines that are sad comics about problematic celebrity favs, odes to your abuelita, or collages of your daily thoughts and ticket stubs, design choices seep through every page of your creation and are a crucial form of communication to readers beyond the writing. In this intermediate level workshop, we'll dive into graphic design concepts such as layout, colors, mediums, and typography to empower you with tools to pick from as you plan your next project.

Intensive: Personal Essay Writing 102

Ideal length: 2+ hours, best suited for multiple sessions

Building off the fundamentals learned in personal essay writing 101, or for essayists who've written but want more experience with publication, we'll work through the stages of revising, researching homes for your writing, submitting, working with editors, and tips for sharing your writing with online community to build your platform. You'll be encouraged to submit at least once before the class concludes and you'll

walk away with a personal spreadsheet for keeping track of submissions and lists of magazines to submit to. (Note: Can be adapted into a shorter workshop focused on how to submit short work for publication.)

Intensive: Professional Development for Artists

Ideal length: 3+ hours

An intensive for early-career artists best suited for 3 or more hours combining lessons in website creation, bio writing, small business finances overview, organization, and marketing.

ADD-ONS:

Book Signing

Author visits that include book signings can help generate excitement, a sense of connection, and an opportunity for brief meet-and-greets. These work best when planned in advanced with the hosting organization ordering discounted books from the publisher that can be offered for free at the event or made available for purchase. Book signing time should be reflected in the schedule of the visit if desired. Arrangements can also be made to have author sign books in advance of the event.

Purchasing Discounted Books

Bulk copies (20 or more) of *Funeral for Flaca* are available for purchase at a discount of 40% off the cover price (\$8.40 per book instead of \$14 each) from publisher. For more information, ask Emilly or email the publisher directly at kevin@futuretensebooks.com.

“To have a local Latinx mujer visit our campus and shed light on an industry that has been historically white was truly inspiring for our community. Emilly left many folks inspired, motivated, and eager to reflect on their own story and journey.”

–Emmanuel Macias, Western Oregon University

TERMS AND PRICING

Speaking and teaching, amongst other services, are how I make my living as a self-employed creative. Connecting with people through events is a deeply meaningful opportunity and I honor each instance. Every engagement is unique, and I treat our conversations regarding compensation as such, yet must be selective with how I invest my energy and time. For any event involving overnight stays (typically those beyond 4 hours of travel time in one day, fees must typically begin at \$3,000 to ensure feasibility.

Hospitality and Travel Terms

Hospitality

- **Technology:** The host must provide a working projector with screen, wifi, and microphone (lapel or wireless mic with stand preferred). These must be set up prior to the start of the event. I will bring my own laptop (2017 Macbook Air).
- **Breaks:** For events longer than 90 minutes or those with two or more components (such as a talk and workshop), a 10–15-minute break in between segments is required, in a private space/green room.

- Dietary restrictions: I follow a lacto-ovo pescatarian diet which means I eat seafood, dairy, and eggs. I am soy protein intolerant: I can eat soy sauce and soy lecithin, but I cannot eat edamame, tofu, soy protein powder, or other more concentrated forms of soy. I am also allergic to melons (watermelon, cantaloupe, etc.) Snacks are appreciated in the green room when possible and I like fruit, nuts, sparkling and/or still water, chips, cheese and crackers, etc. as a jumping off point for ideas. Feel free to ask any questions about my dietary restrictions.

Travel

- I'm based in Portland, Oregon and can drive up to 2 hours each way to an event. I charge mileage at IRS rates for travel beyond 15 miles from my home. I expect to travel by air when driving would take more than 2 hours each way.
- Events requiring air travel or travel greater than 90 minutes each way must cover airfare, lodging, transportation costs to and from the airport, and location-specific per diem for meals.
- I prefer to book my own flight and lodging and can send over itinerary plans before booking if desired. I request reimbursement for travel costs within net-30 of the event and will generate an invoice with accompanying receipts. I cover the cost of any hotel incidentals.

Payment Terms and Budgeting

- After confirming our speaking plan, I will generate an invoice with 30% due upon receipt and the remaining 70% plus any reimbursements due within 30 days (Net-30) of the event.
- As mentioned, I treat every opportunity as its own and would be happy to discuss budgetary needs, but it's important to know my value and time are being honored in our collaboration together. If you need some ideas for how to plan for a visit, some other hosts have had success with establishing sponsorships from partner organizations, partnering with another academic department to share budget costs, registration fees, splitting the cost of travel with another nearby organization when booking me for two or more events in the same location, grants, or charging for a separate workshop to cover costs of a talk, for example (we can discuss a profit split on this, if desired.)

“Working with Emily Prado is nothing but an absolute pleasure. Her sterling work ethic and excellent writing skills, paired with a devotion to racial and social equity, made Emily one of the "all-stars" of the *Portland Mercury*. Ignore her talent at your own risk!”

– Wm. Steven Humphrey, *Portland Mercury* editor-in-chief

“Emily's kindness and strength based approach are her greatest assets as a teacher! She created a positive, inclusive, empowering experience for all the writers. I especially appreciated how she began each class with a "check-in", which contributed to our bonding as a group and feeling heard and seen... I hope to take another class with her!”

– Personal Essay Writing 101 student at Literary Arts

PREVIOUS COLLABORATORS: AWP, Broadway Books, Brown Girl Rise, Camp Fire Columbia, Guapamacávaro Center for Art and Ecology, HatchLab PDX, Independent Publishing Resource Center, Lewis & Clark College, Literary Arts, PDX Pop Now, Peninsula School, Portland Book Festival, Portland Zine Symposium, Siren Nation, Tender Table, Tin House, Warner Pacific University, Western Oregon University, public libraries in Washington, Oregon, and California, and more.