

## Art of the Essay—Pitt Prison Education Project

Spring 2023: ENGCMP 1220-1080  
Thursdays 1:30-4p.m. @ SCI—Somerset  
Professor JC Lee



Ayenda's old house, Mimi Cheron Ng'ok (2013)

"We all have subjects," Zadie Smith writes, "which we explore through living and reading, through dedication to sentences, through trying and failing." The essay's subject can be anything. Smith writes eulogies to the climate and criticism of the artwork on her mother's walls, she writes essays about the global pandemic and an advertisement outside her window in New York, about sorrow and joy.

In this course, which will be held inside SCI—Somerset, we'll explore the essay in its many forms—portrait, list, meditation, poem, argument, and complaint. Together, Pitt students learning alongside incarcerated students, we'll take up the essayist's call to be thoughtful, but also imaginative and playful, and to write about meaningful, alive things.

We'll travel by bus to SCI—Somerset each Thursday, leaving campus at 11:30a.m. and returning by 5:30p.m. For more information about the Pitt Prison Education Project, visit our website @ <https://www.ppep.pitt.edu/> or get in touch with JC @ [starla@pitt.edu](mailto:starla@pitt.edu).

\*This 3-credit course fulfills the Writing Intensive Gen. Ed. Requirement.