

## Basic Plots of the Essay

### Plot 1: The Review

- The review begins with the work of others and develops a set of ideas and narratives that depart from that work.
- Example: Woolf, "The Modern Essay"

### Plot 2: The Ramble/A Walk through the Mind

- The ramble begins with a bit of personal experience and develops a set of ideas and narratives that depart from that experience.
- Example: Chris Wright, "I, Possum"; anything by Montaigne.

### Plot 3: The Meditation

- The meditation begins with an abstract idea or metaphor and relates it to personal experience, other texts, and concrete objects.
- Example: E. B. White, "The Essayist and the Essay".

### Plot 4: The List

- The list begins with a series of objects, stories, or ideas and unifies them through some persistent idea or pattern.
- Example: Sei Shonagon, "Hateful Things".