# Contents

#### Acknowledgments

ix

#### Introduction

Essaying, from Past to Present

3

### **Chapter 1**

Rachel Carson: Art, Science, and the Ecological Essay

17

### Chapter 2

Rereading Hannah Arendt's Eichmann in Jerusalem

47

# **Chapter 3**

Susan Sontag, Suffering, and the Essay

### Chapter 4

Joan Didion's Politics

96

## Chapter 5

Patricia Williams and the Alchemy of the Essay

130

#### **Afterword**

"Why I Write"

158

Notes

163

Works Cited

175

Index

203