

Journal #2

Some critics questioned Wiesel's role as a self-appointed witness: "His personal project has been to keep the wounds of Auschwitz open by repeatedly pouring the salt of new literary reconstructions upon them, and thus to prevent the collective Jewish memory—and his own—from quietly letting the wounds heal," Leon Wieseltier, now the literary editor of *The New Republic*, wrote in *Commentary* in 1974" (Donadio).

Explain Wieseltier's critical perspective of Wiesel's style of testimony. Do you believe there is validity to his critique? Explain why or why not, using evidence from the text and from his Nobel lecture "Hope, Despair and Memory".