

# Class and Workshop Offerings

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3 hours

# Talk to Me: A Voice & Dialogue Workshop

Our characters and their unique voices, are what make readers fall in love with a book. A protagonist's voice is all he or she has to communicate to the reader, so it's crucial to give your character a unique and compelling voice. Voices shine through dialogue, which done correctly, will create tension, propel the plot, and give vital insight into our character's head, heart, and soul. Body language and gestures are also ways to convey voice. Through lecture, instruction, examples, and exercises, participants will learn what it takes to create unique and memorable character voices that will speak volumes to readers.

2 hours

# Taking it Personal: An Essay Writing Workshop

Personal essays are one of the easiest ways to a reader's heart. They're also one of the easiest ways to break into the freelance business. What makes a great personal essay? What makes an essay compelling to a magazine editor? Through lecture, examples, and exercises, participants will learn what it takes to write a thought-provoking, relatable, and marketable personal essay that will grab an editor's attention and a reader's heart.

2 hours

### Strike a Match: Spark Creativity Through Art, Music, and Photography

A picture's worth a thousand words, right? (That's a flash fiction piece!) Inspiration comes in many types and writers could always use a muse once in a while. Oftentimes, other art forms take on that role. Want to jump start a story? Write a poem? Or maybe you want to beef up your characterization skills? Certain music can practically write a scene for you (well, almost). Through lots of examples and exercises, participants will discover a treasure trove of inspiration to spark a fire of creativity, and maybe even their next published piece!

2 hours

#### Twitter for Writers

Twitter can be a valuable social media platform for writers who want to connect with readers, fellow authors, and of course, publishing professionals. You've got the basics down, but do you feel lost among the tweep lingo and hashtags? Don't worry, it's #EasyAs123! Twitter is abound with opportunities for writers to expand their circle of industry knowledge and experts, as well as grow their readership, whether it's books or blogs. This is an advanced class for those who already have a Twitter account and a basic understanding of how Twitter works, but would like to become more adept in using this popular social media platform.

90 minutes

# Be Proactive: Eliminating Passive Voice

No one likes being passive, right? The same should go for your writing. While some passive writing is unavoidable (even necessary) most of the time, it's a clear sign of an amateur writer. Active voice describes a sentence where the subject performs the action stated by the verb. In passive voice sentences, the subject is acted upon by the verb. Passive voice tends to be wordier and over employs –*ing* words and *was* and *were*. Not clear? No worries. Through lectures and examples, participants will understand, identify, and eliminate passive voice with a stroke of the keyboard . . . or pencil. This a great class for both fiction and nonfiction writers.

90 minutes

# Leaving Your Legacy

Whether you're a writer or not, family history and stories are important to preserve for future generations. Perhaps it's your own story you want to document and share with your family, or it's your grandmother's collection of recipes. This class will show you just how easy it is to create a lasting legacy of yours or your family's history. In this 90-minute class, you will learn various ways to document your project, available printing options, and useful tools and resources that will help you turn your memoir or family history into a book that will be enjoyed and cherished by friends and family. This class is geared toward those who may not have a lot of knowledge of publishing, particularly, self-publishing. This is a beginner's class with an introduction into writing and how one can easily publish their story to distribute to friends and family.

2 hours

# So You Want to Be a Writer?

Do you have something to say? Not sure how to say it or who will hear it? We all have stories to tell and some of us want to write them down with the hopes of having lots (if not, millions) of readers. How does that happen? You're likely to have the following questions: Do I need an agent? What if I want to self-publish? I'm pretty sure I have the Next Great American Novel, what now? In this class, participants learn what it takes to be a writer and how to get their book on the shelves of a bookstore—and better yet, in the hands of readers. Hint: Only the dedicated and passionate will survive.

2 hours

# From Idea to Book: How to Write a Book Proposal

Did you know that a nonfiction book doesn't—and in most cases, shouldn't—be completed before submitting to an agent or publisher? You do, however, need a detailed document explaining every aspect of your "proposed" book. And there's an artform to this proposal. Participants will learn through lecture and examples, what a book proposal is and how to write one that will stand out to a publishing professional and get them the publishing deal they've been dreaming of.

\*All classes and workshops can be modified to fit any time frame.\*

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