

DPLIFE WRITERS' TRAINING



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Hi writers! Welcome to this creative writing course. This course is meant to be a refresher for basic tools and forms of writing, as well as give you new skills, and exercise your creative muscles. We'll cover everything from broad topics like how to find ideas, to the nitty gritty of sentence structure and editing.

A little background on me

I'm a writer and editor. I received my BA in English from Temple University with a focus in creative writing. I am a member of SCBWI (Society of Children's Book Writer's and Illustrators). I work as a freelance writer and editor including creating content for UC Magazine, Dplife.org, onmogul.com, and various other online publications and blogs. I also have poetry and creative nonfiction published in literary journals and self-published a children's book in 2015.

—Laurel Nakai



WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM THIS COURSE

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Lessons will be short and focused on a specific topic or skill. The lessons are broken up into four modules with 5-6 lessons each. I have left space at the end of each module for topics to be determined after we have gone through some of the lessons. This will give me a chance to tailor a lesson to your specific needs. I might take questions, go deeper into one of the topics, or discuss a new topic that comes up during the course. At the end of each lesson (except for the last TBA lesson in each module), I will have a short activity for you to complete. The activities and exercises are meant to stimulate your creativity and allow you to practice each skill. Most will involve writing less than 300 words, and are meant to be completed in 20 minutes or less. The exercise will be due back within one week. I'll review them and give notes (no grades, just encouragement and constructive feedback!)

DO

- Ask questions
- Have fun
- Take risks

DON'T

- Think too much
- Worry about getting it perfect
- Spend longer than 20 minutes

What you will gain:

- Confidence in expressing your ideas
- New tools and strategies to communicate effectively
- A basic understanding of storytelling and craft

MODULE 1 DUE DATE

1. FEB. 1 Show vs. Tell Challenge Feb. 8
2. FEB. 15 Forms: Creative Nonfiction/Personal Essay Feb. 22
3. FEB. 29 Research March. 7
4. MAR. 14 Descriptive Language Mar. 21
5. MAR. 28 Basics of Editing Apr. 4
6. APR. 11 TBA

MODULE 2 DUE DATE

1. APR. 18 The Author Veil Apr. 24
2. MAY 2 Forms: Persuasive Writing May 9
3. MAY 16 Story Structure—Readability and Building Suspense May 23
4. MAY 30 Making Connections June. 6
5. JUNE 13 Passive vs. Active Voice June 20
6. JUNE 27 TBA

MODULE 3 DUE DATE

1. JULY 4 Audience July 11
2. JULY 18 Forms 2: Interview July 25
3. AUG. 1 Finding the Heart of Your Story Aug. 8
4. AUG. 15 The Opening Line Aug. 22
5. AUG. 29 TBA

MODULE 4 DUE DATE

1. SEP. 5 Forms: Humor—Irony, satire, parody Sep. 12
2. SEP. 19 Voice Sep. 26
3. OCT. 3 Sentence Structure Oct. 10
4. OCT. 17 Pacing Oct. 24
5. OCT. 31 Rhythm, Sound, and Word Choice Nov. 7
6. NOV 14 TBA