Honing Your Writing Talents

OSHER 166-001
Times: 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM
Location: Commander's House, Fort Douglas
Instructor: Pam Carlquist  pcarlquist@gmail.com  435-513-0597

Course Overview

Each of us has gifts; and many have stories to tell using those gifts. In this course, students will rediscover their writing talents and enhance their writing skills to create more engaging and compelling pieces. Through class discussions, in-class writing exercises, guided imagery, modeling and peer response, participants will tap into their memories and discover the art of bringing their tales to life.

Learning Goals

1. Students will explore through a variety of techniques their own methods of writing. They will learn to establish voice, balance humor with poignancy, deepen character and/or theme, etc.-- in short, enhance their writing and create more engaging and compelling pieces.
2. Students will learn to write more skillfully, with careful word choice, fluidity, varied sentence structure, skillful pacing, etc.
3. Students will gain confidence and skill in evaluating their own writing and the writing of others as they participate in class discussions, writing exercises, modeling and peer response activities.
4. Students will learn to relax, have fun and enjoy the art of writing-- the most important objective of all!

Texts

No texts are required. However, many of the ideas and exercises will come from the following two books:


Calendar

“If you would not be forgotten as soon as you are dead, either write things worth reading or do things worth writing.” –Benjamin Franklin

Exact schedule of activities may change.

Week 1 (4/3)
Introductions and Class Overview
*Why write our stories?
*Where to begin?
*What to do, once we write them?
*How to frame our stories—memoirs, poetry, fiction, plays?
Leads: Jump-Starting Your Imagination and Capturing Your Reader While You’re at It!
Cutting the Clutter: Getting Rid of Extraneous Material

Week 2 (4/10)
Showing, Not Telling: Crafting Scenes
Dramatizing through Dialogue
Deepening Conflict and Suspense
Adding Power to Your Writing: Word Choice, Imagery, Vivid Verbs

Week 3 (4/17)
Pacing: Scene and Sequel/ Driving a Work Forward
Breathing Life into Your Characters
Writing Rubrics: Guides to Good Writing

Week 4 (4/24)
Poetry and Plays: Other Story Vehicles
Making Every Word Count
Peer Response

Week 5 (5/1)
Establishing an Authentic Voice
Balancing Humor With Poignancy
Fluidity—Varying Sentence Length, Beginnings, Structure

Week 6 (5/8)
Perspective and Point-of-View
Theme: What Are You Really Saying Here?