

Community Education

So You Think You Can't Write

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Course Description:

Join us to ignite your creativity and confidence in all kinds of writing including fiction and non-fiction. Join other writers in overcoming blocks, criticism, and fear; and get words on the page. Taught by a published author.

<u>Learning Outcomes:</u> As a result of taking this course, students will:

- Daily use the practice of "wildwriting" to tap ideas.
- Overcome the negative self-talk which inhibits the generation of work.
- Identify the five-part writing process.
- Have a better understanding writing voice, strengths, and interests.
- Discover their worst drawbacks and how to deal with them.
- Develop the confidence to complete projects, share work with others, and most of all, identify as a writer.

Course Schedule:

Day 1:

- Part 1) Why do you think you can't write?
 - Writing Hurdles: anonymous submissions and class discussion of top frustrations we experience
 - o Dilemma of two modes: language vs. big picture
 - Relaxing the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex -!
 - Wildwriting, what it is and how it transforms your work.
 - Writing exercise

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Debrief

Part 2) Dr. Codger/Dream Kid

- o Exercise 2 in Wildwriting
- Introduce your writing partner
- Crucial Points for Dr. Codger
- Sharing of Wildwriting

❖ Part 3) The Writing Process

- The Gaze
- Dynamics of the Writing Process
- o The First Station: The Playground of Prewriting

❖ Part 4) Getting in the Zone

- Exercise: Singing bowl listening
- Ground rules of wildwriting & idea-generating
- Draft Camp
- Stations three through six, an overview

Day 2:

Part 1) Vulnerability and Voice

- o Identifying vulnerability within your writing
- Brenda Ueland on "microscopic truthfulness"
- Partnering / How to give constructive feedback
- Wildfire Roundtable Phrasebook
- Exercise: listening dynamics

❖ Part 2) Go for the jugular

- Quote from Natalie Goldberg
- Memoir, memory, and imagination
- Difficult material
- Welcoming Your Memories Handout 100 prompts
- o writing from life, in fiction
- o Exercise: "I remember"
- Small groups and reflecting exercises

❖ Part 3) Deepening of Practice

- Sensory Stimulation smell, taste, touch
- o Fiction: Imagination Activation
- Visual prompts amazing faces
- Burned Letter 3 Exercise

❖ Part 4) You Are the Authority

- Exploration: "Two Pockets"
- Start Where You Are
- Success Stories
- Exercise: "If"
- Envisioning Your Authorship

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*Attendance/Participation is helpful for the whole class! Conflicts arise, so please text or email Christi if you won't be able to attend class.

<u>Class Evaluation</u>: Class evaluations are sent by email. Sometimes the email will be delivered to your "junk mail," but we can assure you it's from Clark College only. Your responses are completely anonymous. If you do not see your evaluation immediately after class, look in your junk mail and send it to your email address. If you do not receive an evaluation, please email <u>Continuingeducation@clark.edu</u> or call 360.992.2939.

Inclement Weather:

If the College cancels due to icy conditions you can find this on the college website www.clark.edu If Community Education concludes that the weather is too hazardous we may also decide to cancel this class. In that case you will receive both a phone call and email. Make certain that we have your correct contact information by viewing the class roster.

Looking for classes? Visit our Community Education webpage: www.clark.edu/cce/

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