



Writing Seminar 5-6 Syllabus

Course Goals

1 Reading for Inspiration

Students will read and discuss examples of the genres they will be practicing, including personal narratives and short stories (literary, fantasy, science fiction).

2 Writing in Multiple Genres

Students will hone their writing skills through practice writing in a variety of different genres, including personal narratives and short stories (literary, fantasy, science fiction).

3 Submitting a Short Story

Students will submit a short story for publication as a final project.

4 Creating a Class Anthology

Students will anthologize some of their favorite stories as a final project.

Course Topics

1 Personal Narrative

Students learn the pleasures and risks of writing about their own experiences in personal narratives.

2 Plot

Students learn how to diagnose and construct a plot in a short story.

3 Characters

Students learn how to create and reveal characters, including both protagonists and antagonists, in a short story.

4 Dialogue

Students learn how to create and effectively present dialogue.

5 Setting

Students learn how to analyze and construct the setting of a story.

6 Point of View and Narrative Voice

Students learn about and practice writing in various points of view.

7 Flash Fiction

Students practice writing effectively while being concise.

8 Revising and Finalizing Drafts

Students learn how to revise and edit writing to improve clarity, conciseness, and strength, based on feedback from

peers and the instructor.

Course Schedule

Day 1

Icebreaker 1

Students get to know their peers.

Icebreaker 2

Students get to know their peers.

Course Introduction

Students discuss what they like to read and write, what makes a short story, and what makes good writing "good."

Elements of a Short Story

Students learn the basic elements of a short story.

Personal Narrative Introduction

Students are introduced to the personal narrative form.

Reading Personal Narratives

Students read personal narratives.

Outlining a Personal Narrative

Students brainstorm and create the outline for a personal narrative.

Writing a Personal Narrative

Students write a personal narrative.

Revising a Personal Narrative

Students revise their personal narratives.

Day 2

Read and Discuss "Charles"

Students read, discuss, and write about "Charles" (by Shirley Jackson).

Vocabulary

Students build their vocabulary.

Writing: Plot Twist

Students write a story based on the reading.

Day 3

Revealing Character Reading

Students read about how to reveal character in a story.

Read and Discuss "Thank You, Ma'am"

Students read "Thank You, Ma'am" (by Langston Hughes).

Vocabulary 2

Students build their vocabulary.

Creating Characters

Students create characters for a short story.

Getting to Know Characters

Students conduct interviews with their characters.

Role Playing

Students act out scenes as their characters and interact with other characters.

Writing Characters

Students write a story to practice character building.

Day 4**Reading "Harrison Bergeron"**

Students read and discuss "Harrison Bergeron" (by Kurt Vonnegut).

Drawing in Response

Students draw in response to the reading.

Dialogue

Students read about how to write various kinds of dialogue.

Writing in Response to "Harrison Bergeron"

Students write a story in response to the reading.

Dialogue Practice

Students practice dialogue.

Vocabulary and Verbs

Students build vocabulary and practice using strong verbs.

Day 5**Setting**

Students learn about the setting of a story and practice descriptive writing.

Read and Discuss "All Summer in a Day"

Students read and discuss "All Summer in a Day" (by Ray Bradbury).

Vocabulary 3

Students continue to build vocabulary.

Writing in Response to "All Summer in a Day"

Students write a story in response to the reading.

Watch Short Movie Version of "All Summer in a Day"

Students watch the short movie version of "All Summer in a Day" to draw comparisons and further discuss setting.

Brainstorming a Story

Students brainstorm ideas for next week's short story.

Day 6

Point of View and Narrative Voice

Students read about Point of View and Narrative Voice.

Read and Discuss "Rules of the Game"

Students read and discuss "Rules of the Game" (by Amy Tan).

Point of View Practice

Students practice Point of View.

Vocabulary, Adjectives, and Adverbs

Students build their vocabularies and practice using strong adjectives and adverbs.

Begin Final Short Story

Students begin their final short story by first planning and plotting the story.

Day 7

Flash Fiction Introduction

Students are introduced to the flash fiction form.

Flash Fiction Reading

Students read examples of flash fiction.

Flash Fiction Discussion

Students discuss flash fiction.

100-Word Story

Students write short short stories inspired by pictures.

Writing Flash Fiction

Students write flash fiction in response to prompts.

Continue Final Short Story

Students continue working on their final short story.

Day 8

Genre Stations

Students practice writing in various genres of fiction.

Continue Final Short Story

Students continue writing and begin revising their final short story.

Read and Discuss "The Lady, or the Tiger"

Students read and discuss "The Lady, or the Tiger" (by Frank R. Stockton)

Day 9**Prepare Short Story for Anthology**

Students choose a short story for the class anthology.

Revising and Finalizing Drafts

Students revise and write final drafts of the short stories they wish to include in the class anthology.

Read and Discuss "The Interlopers"

Students read and discuss "The Interlopers" (by Saki).

Using All Five Senses

Students practice using all five senses in their writing.

Day 10**Revise and Finalize Short Story for Submission**

Students revise and write final drafts of their Final Short Story for submission.

Student Reading

Students perform a reading of the work they've produced during the session.

Drawing and Writing

Students engage in a fun activity that blends drawing and writing.

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