

Lifting Every Voice through Creative Writing & Publishing

Course #NA-05-130
3 Salary Points



Course Summary:

“It’s about language as a joyful release, irrepressibly talented [students] obsessed with making words dance. While the topics they tackle are often deeply personal, what they put into their [writing]-and what they get out of [it]-is universal: the defining work of finding one’s voice.” (from a description of *Louder than a Bomb*, on the website RottenTomatoes.com)

About 500 years ago, Martin Luther said, “If you want to change the world, pick up your pen and write.” Let’s help students to do exactly that. This *Education for Equity* course is dedicated to helping teachers to find their own voice through creative writing, and to then guide their students to the same discovery, making those beautiful, important voices that the world needs to hear, actually heard, loud and clear – through various means of publishing. The course progresses from pedagogical approaches and principles for teaching creative writing, to honing in on various genres, from journaling/blogging, to fictional narrative, poetry (which will be explored as a particularly powerful, artistic way to “make words dance” and to give special meaning and influential power to one’s experiences), and personal narratives (with an emphasis on writing “counter-narratives” – changing one’s destructively demeaning self-perceptions through creating counter-narratives to negative thinking - a proven approach to overcoming inferior academic performance issues). Collaboration, addressing academic standards, evaluation/assessment, and publishing are then discussed in the context of creating masterpieces that students can celebrate and through which their voices can be found and heard, and can even change the world. The course ends with a final project related to creative writing, and an opportunity for teachers to use the written word to potentially improve upon the course for future participants.

Course Outline:

Course Introduction

- Session 1: Teaching Creative Writing: History, Purpose, & Pedagogical Approaches
- Session 2: Frequent Creative Writing: Journaling & Blogging
- Session 3: Fiction Writing: Key Components
- Session 4: Poetry Writing: Benefits, Methods, Key Components, Models, & Useful Resources
- Session 5: Personal Narrative: (Re)Defining Oneself in & through Writing
- Session 6: Collaboration in Creative Writing
- Session 7: Creative Writing & Core Content Standards
- Session 8: Creating & Assessing Creative Writing Portfolios
- Session 9: Publishing Students’ Creative Writing: Make Their Voices Heard!
- Session 10: Course Final: Project & Survey

Please Note: This course is designed to be completed **within 3 months**. Participants are recommended to complete approximately **one session per week**.