

Lifting Every Voice through Creative Writing and Publishing LAUSD Course #NA-05-130 Approved for 3 Salary Points (LAUSD-Specific)

*“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 RottenTomatoes.com)



Brief Overview

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 Education4Equity 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.

Outline of Course

Module 1: Teaching Creative Writing - History, Purpose, and Pedagogical Approaches
Learn about the various approaches to creative writing pedagogy, the history of creative writing in the classroom, and how creative writing is used for interdisciplinary purposes.

Module 2: Frequent Creative Writing - Journaling & Blogging
Journals and blogs will be used to reinforce critical thinking skills, and online resources will be used to publish student work.

Module 3: Fiction Writing - Key Components
Learn theoretical and pragmatic approaches to teaching fiction writing, including point of view, scene, character development and plot.

Module 4: Poetry Writing - Benefits, Methods, Key Components, Models, and Useful Resources
Learn to inspire students to write poetry as a way of sharing their experiences while building student confidence to read poetry and experiment with vocabulary.

Module 5: Personal Narrative - (Re)Defining oneself in and Through Writing
Learn methods for teaching personal narrative through culturally diverse viewpoints, while engaging students with issues of identity.

Module 6: Collaboration in Creative Writing
Learn methods for teaching group-based creative writing projects, including how to teach students to respond to the work of others.

Module 7: Creative Writing and Core Content Standards
Learn how to apply creative writing to the Common Core, how to teach literature in conjunction with creative writing, and how creative writing builds interdisciplinary skills.

Module 8: Creating and Assessing Creative Writing Portfolios
Learn how to guide students through the portfolio development, how to develop grading standards for creative writing, and how to negotiate teaching authority when evaluating creative work.

Module 9: Publishing Students' Creative Writing - Help Their Voices to Be Heard!
Learn how to self-publish student work online and in book form. Learn about publishing opportunities and how to guide students through the publication submission process.

Module 10: Course Final Project and Conclusion
Participants will complete a final project in which they apply their creativity in communicating their own teaching philosophy.



Description of Activities

For each module please expect the following activities:

- Read through the lesson/session contents (including articles) and watch videos
- Take a short quiz on the material presented
- Complete a written assignment with open-ended responses
- Post your written responses on a discussion forum for interaction with others

Have Questions?

Email our Help Desk at help.ed4equity@gmail.com