

Author Techniques

Jo Wilkens (joawilkens@mysticpublishersinc.com) Thursday 9-10:30 MAB2 MAB2

Week 1: Introduction to Writing

Objective: Getting to know the process

1. What is the proper balance in writing for audience consumption
2. Definitions you should be familiar with
3. How to set up readability tracking on your computer
4. Point of View (POV) - The how and why
 - a. Possible video showing distinct POV's

Handouts:

5. Balance
6. Beginners Definitions
7. How to Set up Readability Statistics
8. Writing in Viewpoint

Week 2: The Basics

Objective: How much or how little to include

1. Nuts & Bolts of drama
2. Using all the details
3. Writing what you know
4. Developing your voice
5. Finding your style

Handouts:

1. seven Basic Plots
2. Evaluating Your Hook
3. Punctuation Dictionary
4. The Perfect Sentence
5. Editing Symbols

Week 3: Organization

Objective: Getting your ideas into logical order

1. The Bubble Method - How to expand on an idea
 - a. Defining your plot
 - b. Character analysis
 - c. Scene structure
2. Outlining - The best ways to pull it off
 - a. The how and why of putting the basics on paper
3. Outlining Tools

Handouts:

4. Bubbling examples

Week 4: Organization (Continued)

Objective: Getting your ideas into logical order

1. Storyboarding - Keeping track of your work

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Week 5: Building the Story Through Dialogue

Objective: To Construct interior dialogue and dialogue between characters

1. Dialogue Techniques
2. How Dialogue Affects Characters
3. Proper punctuation

Handouts:

1. How to write successful dialogue
2. Punctuating your dialogue
3. Suggested types of Dialogue

Handouts:

1. Scene & Chapter Cards

Week: 6 Characterization

Objective: Defining my characters

1. Main Plot Idea
2. How to choose my main character

Handouts:

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|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. The Right Look | 4. Control Dramas |
| 2. Hero's & Villians | 5. Creating Characters |
| 3. Showing the action | 6. Character Profile |

Week 7: Passive vs Active Voice

Objective: Writing in the most audience attractive ways

1. The dangers of Passive voice
2. The process of showing the action

Handouts:

1. Passive vs Active
2. Show Don't Tell

Week 8: Beginnings & Endings

Objective: Writing agood hook & a Satisfying Ending

1. How to write a hook that captures your readers
2. Beginnings to avoid
3. Surprise and Delight
4. Questions and Choices
5. Circular or Liniar

Week 9: Editing & Editors

Objective: When to self-edit and when to choose a industry proficient editor

1. Editing & Revision Symbols
2. What type of editor do I need
3. Punctuation dictionary
4. Self-Editing Checklist

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5. The perfect sentence
6. Nice Work
7. Score a Perfect 10

Week 10: The 4 Different Types Of Publishers

Objective: To show prospective authors what to beware of when searching for a publisher

PowerPoint 4 types of editors

Handouts:

1. Notes pages

(There may be other handouts as I find more information to support some concepts)

Acceptable Manuscript Lengths:

Novel: 45,000 to 150,000 Words

Novella: 7,000 to 40,000 Words

Short Story: 2,000 to 7,000 Words

Short-short Story: Under 2,000 words

Flash Fiction: 99 to 1,000 words

Suggested Reference Material:

The Elements of Style (by William Strunk & E.B. White)

The Elements of Grammar (By Margaret Schertzer)

Chicago Manual of Style (Anything above the 15th edition)

(current editions sell for around \$90.00, but older editions sell for around \$15.00 or less)