

Writing Festival Sessions

Time	Session 1 MCC Women’s Center Lounge	Session 2 MCC Gwendolyn Brooks Lounge	Session 3 MCC Board Room (208)	Session 4 MCC Casa Latina Lounge	Session 5 MCC Multipurpose Room
10 to 10:50	<p>I'm Not Just Good--I'm Great!: Writing about What I Do Best'' (Dr. Bill Knox)</p> <p>In this workshop, each student will share a story about a special skill used to save the day: perhaps fixing a friend's car, helping a sibling get ready for an important social event, tutoring a student peer for a test or paper, winning a sports or other competition, leading a team project, building a fire to dry out a camping trip that would have been otherwise rained out, or being a Big Brother or Big Sister.</p>	<p>Life Narratives: Stories of our Lives (Dr. Shazia Rahman)</p> <p>In this workshop, students will learn about different kinds of life narratives, how to read them, and how to write them. We will focus on the power of six-word memoirs.</p>	<p>Writing “Where I’m From” Poems (Dr. Alisha White)</p> <p>In this session students will read George Ella Lyon’s poetry about her life growing up in the Kentucky mountains and write “Where I’m From” poems about their personal histories, object memories, and family roots. Students will also have the opportunity to illustrate their poems.</p>	<p>Developing Characters Without Context in the Theatre of the Absurd (Mr. Cass Litle)</p> <p>All plays need characters, but within the Theatre of the Absurd, viewers rarely get the characters they want. Forget what you know about character development - who cares about logic and backstory? - let's explore unfamiliar characters thrust into strange situations and see what happens!</p>	TBD

<p>11 to 11:50</p>	<p>Fun with Information: Creating an Infographic (Dr. Magdelyn Helwig) In <i>today's</i> visually dominant society, most of our writing involves visuals as well as words. In this workshop students will be introduced to the basic verbal and visual components of information graphics, or infographics, a genre designed to quickly and concisely present information. Students will learn techniques for designing successful infographics and will practice those techniques to produce their own infographic.</p>	<p>“The Personal is Political”: Composing Creative Nonfiction That Matters (Ms. Barbara Ashwood) In this workshop, students will create a short piece of creative nonfiction that uses their personal experience to address a significant social issue that appeals to a broad audience of readers.</p>	<p>Documentary Films in American Cinema (Dr. Roberta Di Carmine) We will watch clips and then write a short story narrative (treatment) for our own documentary</p>	<p>A Spectacle and Nothing Strange: Surreal and Experimental Techniques (Dr. David Banash) This workshop will concentrate on techniques developed by modernists, surrealists, and postmodernists to reveal hidden dimensions of everyday language by thinking about words as games and dreams. In our workshop, we will practice their techniques to create writing in which, as Gertrude Stein puts it, all is "not ordinary, not unordered in not resembling. The difference is spreading.</p>	<p>Soundtrack of Your Life (Ms. Jo Chapman and Mr. Lucas Marshall) If your life had a soundtrack, what would it be? During this workshop we'll write about the songs that changed our lives and start creating our own soundtracks of our lives.</p>
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Lunch and Campus Tour 11:55 to 12:55 p.m.

<p>1:00 to 1:50</p>	<p>Writing (Your Life) Dangerously (Ms. Barb Harroun) In this session, you'll work with the wealth of your life to recount it accurately and capture it vividly in prose. Come prepared to write dangerously, take risks, and have some adrenaline pumping fun.</p>	<p>The Writer as Observer (Dr. Merrill Cole) The Writer as Observer asks aspiring writers simply to observe and record what they see for a short period of time, no matter if it's dramatic, picturesque, or striking. Good writing uses concrete detail to elicit the reader's interest in even the simplest things. Participants are asked not state their emotional or intellectual reactions to what they see, but to record it in such a way as to solicit feelings and thoughts from the reader though careful description.</p>	<p>Photo-Auto-Bio-Graphy: the intersection of Fiction and Real (sic) Life. (Dr. Bill Thompson and Ms. Christina Norton) Use photographs to construct narratives (stories) that are more or less true as regards the stream of events, places, things seen and half seen, heard and not heard, thoughts, feelings that comprise the fathomless mystery referred to as "your life" or someone else's life.</p>	<p>Writing Your Room (Dr. Mark Mossman) Description: This session will engage the significance of "place" in writing. We will talk in detail about the aesthetic value of a place of your own, like a room, and the ways in which this awareness of value transfer into actual writing practice.</p>	<p>Build A Story (Dr. Erika Wurth) Do you start a story only to find that you can't finish it? That's because you've got a great IDEA, but you haven't yet thought about WHO the characters in your story really are. What do they sound like? What are their big problems, the ones that are going to push your story forward? We will do a few fun exercises to help build your skills in this area, and then we'll finish with a small "build a story" exercise that will help you finish that story.</p>
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