Samantha Wheeler

Writing Workshops 2016/2017

1. Narrative Writing: So, you want to write a story? But the page is blank. Where do you start? How do you finish? Let me help you plan your story so that it starts with a boom, races across the page towards the finish, and comes to a rounded, satisfying end. Become the champion of storytelling in one short workshop that is sure to leave your narrative shining.

Workshop format: (Class size groups, between 1-2 hours)

- Brainstorming/warm up activity
- Planning of stories using a template to encourage great starts, develop rising tension and ensure well-rounded endings
- Discussion. Have you structured your story? Have you planned a satisfying ending?
- Brainstorm the use of language and sentence structure to create tension, description, and dialogue.
- Drafting a short narrative piece.
- 2. Persuasive Writing: You have something to say, and you're not afraid to say it? Join us to brainstorm, plan and draft a persuasive argument guaranteed to get results! We'll cover the use of persuasive techniques, importance of planning paragraphs, and using great transition words to make your writing sing. By the end of this workshop, your argument is sure to grab the attention of anyone who dares to read it.

Workshop format: (Class size groups, between 1-2 hours)

- Warm up activity. Persuasive letter example shared with the group.
- Group discussion. What techniques make an argument strong?
- Brainstorming using visual stimulus
- Planning the argument
- Drafting (using the plan and a template) the argument
- Review. What did you do well? What can you do better?
- **3.** Dialogue: You're writing a heart racing adventure story and your pencil is nearly flying off the page. Your hero is about to tackle an alien when he says ...Oh no! It looks like you could do with some help with that dialogue. Let me show you how to ensure your dialogue adds rather than detracts from your nail biting story.

Workshop format: (Class size groups: 1 hour)

- Brainstorm short scenes to develop dialogue in small groups
- Scenes presented to the group: what worked, what didn't?
- Writing down the dialogue. How can we make it realistic? How do we punctuate it?
- A contrasting piece of dialogue performed and workshopped.

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