

New Energy Education Center

Creative Nonfiction(Sunday 11-12:30)

Syllabus, Spring 2022

Instructor: Maryellen Lo Bosco

In this class students will do a lot of writing. We will not be writing literary essays about texts; rather, we will be crafting original pieces on subjects of students' choosing. We will do some nonfiction reading, which will be used as writing models students can imitate in creating their own pieces.

While writing will be done in class, students may interview people outside of class for the journalism segment and do Internet research as necessary.

Descriptive Writing

Students will practice using descriptive language and figures of speech (for example, metaphor, simile, irony, hyperbole, personification, and so forth).

Meeting 1: What is creative nonfiction? Introduction. Visual writing prompts. Introduction to descriptive writing.

Meeting 2: Descriptive Writing. Using Detail and Imagery. Instruction and exercises.

Meeting 3: Writing the Descriptive Essay.

Tone, Diction, and Dialogue

Students will develop sensitivity to tone in nonfiction writing and learn how to consciously create tone with diction and dialogue.

Meeting 4: Diction and Tone. Instruction and exercises.

Meeting 5: Using Quotations and Dialogue. Instruction and exercises.

Meeting 6: Skit Writing using dialogue and description.

Personal Narrative (Life Stories)

Students will write one or more life stories in the form of an essay, video essay, or podcast.

Meeting 7: Personal Narrative. Introduction and examination of different types of personal narratives

Meeting 8: Personal Narrative Writing

Meeting 9: Personal Narrative: Revising and Editing

Article Writing

Students will write at a journalistic account based on interviews of family members, friends, teachers, or neighborhood characters. Written account, video report, or podcast report.

Meeting 10: Introduction and examination of feature articles on various topics

Meeting 11: Brainstorming and outlining for feature article

Meeting 12: Feature Article Writing

Meeting 13 Feature Article Revising and Editing

Possible Topics (Article Writing)

Family. A history of your family for three generations.

Family. Family mission and values

Family. Sibling relations

Neighborhood. A history of your neighborhood

Neighborhood. Interesting neighborhood characters

Neighborhood. Local problems and solutions

School. Sports teams and extracurricular activities

School. Mission and values

School. Outstanding teacher