

Encouraging Writers @ Your Library

KLA Tri-Conference 2005

Overland Park, Kansas

Thursday, March 31

11:30-12:20 pm

Reach aspiring writers with programs that educate and inspire, while promoting your library with National Novel Writing Month, writer's groups, journaling or poetry workshops.

Use the writing experts in your community!

Screenwriter

Have you always wanted to write scripts for Hollywood movies? Do you have a terrific idea you want to develop into a screenplay? Then make plans to attend So You Want to Be a Screenwriter? on Saturday, November 23, 2002, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Sheffel Room of Marvin Auditorium. Esther Luttrell, head of Los Angeles-based Starcraft Agency's Literary Department, will tell you what it takes to become a screenwriter. Afterwards she will be signing her book "Tools of the Screenwriting Trade", which will be available for purchase.

Writers Club

The Monday Writers Group will share how they formed a writing group and how the group has grown together as writers. "Our writing group offers the opportunity to share original work. We follow a topic decided upon by all members. Gentle critiques and encouraging comments are welcome. Monthly meetings prove to be a true opportunity for creative growth and increasing exposure to many forms of literature."

Poetry Open Mic Night

Calling all poets! Interested in sharing your work with other local artists? Bring your own work or present someone else's in a casual environment. This event will be mediated and each participant will be limited to a five-minute reading. Content should be appropriate for a teenage audience and is subject to review.

Sign-up at the door.

Poetry Writing Workshops

Interested in writing poetry? Learn different styles of poetry through examples and exercises, including haiku, prose, lyrical, narrative, and epic. You'll come away from this workshop with a working knowledge of how to discover your own creative voice.

This continuing poetry workshop features Picturesque Poetry—Exploring the use of photos, paintings and other visual materials, participants will create poems through examples and exercises.

This continuing poetry workshop features Emotions in Poetry - With the use of portraiture, color, personal photography and aromatics, participants will create poems exploring emotions through examples and exercises.

National Novel Writing Month

November 1-30



Organize a National Novel Writing Month Kick Off Event, Book Display, Write-In Session, a Wrap-Up Party.

National Novel Writing Month is a fun, seat-of-your-pants approach to novel writing. Participants begin writing November 1. The goal is to write a 175-page (50,000-word) novel by midnight, November 30.

Kickoff your writing @ your library!
NaNoWriMo: how to Write a Novel in 30 days
Monday, October 25, 7-8 pm

What: Writing one 50,000-word novel from scratch in a month's time. Valuing enthusiasm and perseverance over talent and craft, NaNoWriMo is a novel-writing program for everyone who has thought fleetingly about writing a novel but has been scared away by the time and effort involved.

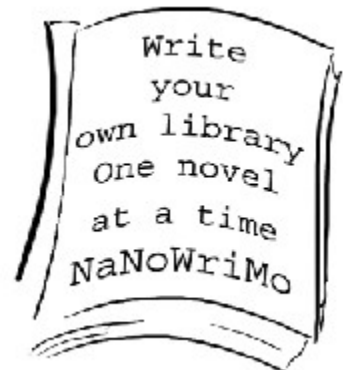
Who: You! In 2003, NaNoWriMo had about 25,000 participants. Over 3500 of them crossed the 50k finish line by the midnight deadline, entering into the annals of NaNoWriMo superstardom forever. They started the month as auto mechanics, out-of-work actors, and middle school English teachers. They walked away novelists.

Why: The reasons are endless! To actively participate in one of our era's most enchanting art forms! To write without having to obsess over quality. To be able to make obscure references to passages from your novel at parties. To be able to mock real novelists who dawdle on and on, taking far longer than 30 days to produce their work.

When: Writing begins November 1. To be added to the official list of winners, the 50,000-word mark must be reached by November 30 at midnight. The ONLY thing that matters is output. It's all about quantity, not quality. By forcing yourself to write so intensely, you are giving yourself permission to make mistakes and just create.

Where: Register online at www.nanowrimo.org after October 1.

www.nanowrimo.org



Create a 'Zine for Beginners: How to Write, Edit and Publish Your Very Own 'Zine, Newsletter or Pamphlet

What is a 'zine?

A 'zine is a small self-published fanzine, magazine, newsletter or pamphlet that allows freedom of expression and creativity.

How can I find 'zines to read?

- The Book of Zines: Reading from the Fringe <http://www.zinebook.com/>
- Zine World: A Reader's Guide <http://www.undergroundpress.org/>
- Portland Zine Symposium <http://www.pdxzines.com/>
- Flying Inkpot's Zine Scene <http://inkpot.com/zines/>

How can I get other people to read my 'zine?

- Paper copies/ Local Stores/ Zine Distro
- On the Internet

How will people get involved?

- Find like-minded people to help with your 'zine – ask your friends, or club members. Once you make a 'zine and share it with others, you may get submissions for future issues.

What are the main tasks?

Each of these can be a separate committee, or all of these jobs can be accomplished by a single person. Your 'zine will be a product of what you put into it, and what you want it to be, and it will evolve over time.

- Editor/Layout
- Fundraising
- Articles/Submissions
- Advertising
- Art/Graphics
- Web Development

Time and Money – how to get some

- If you are publishing a 'zine on your own or with a small group of friends, you may all just chip in to pay for copying your 'zine. For a larger group, you may be able to hold fundraisers to help cover the cost of printing.
- Plan ahead and stay on track with deadlines
- Choose a theme, brainstorm ideas, submit drafts, peer-edit and revise, layout, printer, distribution

Content

- What kind of things might your 'zine include?
- Feature articles, Editorials/Opinions, Letters to the Editor/Reader Responses
- Reviews and Recommendations of Books, Movies, Web-sites, Music, etc.
- Artwork/Poetry, Fun and Games
- Sports, Health, Opposing Viewpoints, Local Issues, etc.

Leading a Journaling and Personal Writing Workshop at Your Library

How does a journaling group get started?

We offered a one-time journaling workshop in February 2002, which became a monthly group at the patrons' request. The group met monthly for three years, and is meeting bimonthly. The monthly group has an average attendance of 10, and has continued to attract 3-4 new participants each month as well as 5-6 returning patrons from previous monthly sessions.

Is it hard to lead a journaling group? Do you have to be an expert?

People want encouragement, new ideas, and validation of their writing. People come back to a group where they can feel comfortable sharing, and can learn from appreciating others' examples. Most librarians will naturally provide this setting, sharing information through handouts or leading by example, and encouraging participants to write and share.

What do I write? And How do I write it? (just kidding!)

A journaling instructor should not tell any participant what to write or how to write it because the very nature of personal writing and journaling is that the writer chooses and controls their writing and should be encouraged to write whatever they want. Journaling workshops serve as forums for new ideas, sharing techniques, presenting information, encouraging creativity, freedom of expression and personal choices. We use the terms journals and diaries interchangeably.

Why do people journal?

As an emotional release, to record events, to create art, to remember events, to plan for the future, for posterity or future generations, to set and maintain goals, for family history, for self-exploration, for a specific person (spouse or child), to vent frustrations, to find one's purpose, for someone else, to vent frustrations, to work through problems, to find one's purpose, to mark the days, because sometimes paper is the only thing that will listen.

Why don't people journal?

Not creative, nothing to write about, nothing exciting, not enough time, can't get started, don't want to mess up their journal and make mistakes, someone might read it, don't want to, get bored, feel like the writing is repetitive, can't think of anything to write

How often do people journal?

Julia Cameron and others recommend writing 3 pages every morning. Some people write in the evening or just before bed. People journal on vacation, when they are upset, during spare moments. People journal purposefully and according to a schedule. People journal once every few years or once every few weeks or once every few hours. People journal to overcome grief, to record their gratitude, to record the events of life.

Are there different types of journals?

Your journal can be whatever you want it to be, whatever you write it to be. Some types of journals include: travel, health, teen, historic, therapy, idea, artist, unsent letter, family history, scrapbooks, nature, dream, prayer, and garden journals.

What are journaling prompts and how are they used?

Journaling prompts are used to encourage creative journaling, to direct or focus journal entries, to illustrate or explain techniques and apply them to personal journaling. A prompt is simply anything that inspires someone to write. Often journaling prompts are used to get people past that “Blank page, pen in hand, don’t know what to write about” moment and put their pen to the paper and start writing.

What are journaling techniques and how are they used?

In the books, articles and websites about journaling, a variety of techniques emerge to help writers be creative, express themselves in new directions, expand their writing to new topics or formats, and test their comfort levels with trying something outside of their ordinary routine. Some common techniques for journaling include clustering or mind-mapping, collages, dreams and imagery, captured moments, dialogue, lists, writing prompts, time capsule, unsent letters, and stream of consciousness.

What makes you a good journaling leader?

Talk about yourself, your experiences and your writing to help people feel comfortable sharing, but not so much that you lose the participants respect for you as a professional.

During a journaling group, every person including the leader should be treated equally and encouraged but not pressured to participate by sharing. The leader should not do most of the talking, but should control the discussion and help rein in people who are speaking inappropriately. Interrupting participants must be done delicately, to control the discussion, but not offend anyone. Interrupt people who are speaking inappropriately without making anyone feel uncomfortable about sharing their own writing in the future. Be encouraging but don’t let anyone get too far off topic or awkwardly personal.

How do you choose topics and prepare prompts?

You can develop topics by reading books on journaling, or doing topical research in article databases or internet search engines. Library catalog subject headings include *Diaries-Authorship* and keywords *Diaries* and *Journals*. Internet search phrases include *Journaling Prompts*, *Writing Prompts*, and *Journaling* combined with other topical words.

How can I get copies of prepared journaling handouts?

If you would like electronic copies of journaling handouts created at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, just ask! We can share our documents as e-mail attachments in Microsoft Word. Topics include: 50 revealing lists you can create in your journal, Using collages for creativity and inspiration in your journaling, Keeping a gratitude journal, Holiday journaling, Journaling and family history, Reflecting on the past year, Directing the coming year, and Journaling ideas online.

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