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Here's my list of workshops. Please contact me for more information:

## **Poetry**

### **Poetry: Cross Training for Prose Writers**

Some writers use poetic techniques to strengthen their fiction and non-fiction. We will look at writers such as Annie Dillard and Catherine Marshall who added sound, rhythm, and imagery to their work. The class appeals to all writers who want to enrich their work.

### **Writing the "Good Poem"**

Poetry is an art worthy of our dedication and hard work. Samuel Taylor Coleridge defined poetry as "the right words in the right order." But what makes a "good" poem? Why do some poems grip us with their intensity and others turn us off with abstract ideas? We will learn to use poetic devices and universal ideas to craft our work and practice writing the "good poem."

### **"Discovery Poems" Discovering What You Have To Say**

We will work with everyday objects to discover the "universal idea" that makes our poems reach beyond our own experience to touch others. We will make connections, write with our senses, use sound and rhythm, and shape our writing for an audience...maybe even ourselves.

### **The Music In Words: How Sound and Rhythm Enhances Our Language**

Sound and rhythm enhances our language and can enrich our blogs, website and general writing. These poetic devices are even used in advertising to capture our attention. We will examine sound devices, rhyme, and rhythmic patterns to discover how they enhance language.

## **Nonfiction:**

### **Writing the Personal Essay**

We all have a story to tell. But why should anyone care about yours? You've used sensory details and images that make the reader see, taste, touch, hear, and smell it. You've also engaged

your audience using a “big idea” that they can identify with. We will examine compelling memoirs and begin our own.

### **Ten Commandments for Dealing With Editors**

You’re ready to send out your manuscript and you wonder how to approach an editor. Or perhaps you’ve been submitting but haven’t gotten anywhere. This class will offer tips on how to deal with editors in a professional manner to give yourself a better chance at publication. Come and learn the “Thou shalt nots” to advance your writing career.

### **Letters to the Editor and Editorials: An Audience of Thousands**

Writing Letters to the Editor or newspaper editorials is a powerful way to reach a huge audience. But you could offend someone you know. Do you have a passion to write about current issues and the courage to face the public? Find out how you can change the world.

### **Writing As Art**

#### **Writing as Art, The Writer As Artist**

Viewing yourself as an artist changes how you pursue your calling as a writer. What can we learn about art and the artistic process that will enhance our craft? How do we view the world, and capture and shape both ordinary and significant moments in our writing? This workshop will help you see the world as an artist and engage your creativity and imagination in new ways.

#### **The Christian View of Writers As Artists (1 - 2 sessions)**

Does being a Christian make us better artists, and does being an artist make us better Christians? Building on **Writing As Art, The Writer As Artist**, we’ll discuss how we are to love the Lord with both “sides” of our minds: the analytical and the imaginative. We’ll also examine how imagination strengthens our relationship with God and how creativity works as a spiritual discipline. (Can include hands on, creative activities for writers.)

#### **The Secrets of the Muse, Imagination, and Discipline**

Poetry writing and teaching owes a debt to the theories and work of 19<sup>th</sup> c. British Romantic poets Samuel Taylor Coleridge and William Wordsworth. We will look at their contributions, talk about contemporary beliefs of how creativity and imagination work in the writing process, and apply these ideas to our work. Recommended for those who want training in writing theory.



Where I've taught residencies as a teaching artist:

#### Schools

Conneaut Valley High School, Conneautville, PA  
First District Elementary School, Meadville, PA  
Second District Elementary School, Meadville, PA  
Perseus House Charter School, Erie, PA  
Harding Elementary School, Erie, PA  
Smethport High School, Smethport, PA  
Port Allegany High School, Port Allegany, PA  
Ridgefield Elementary School, Erie, PA  
Vernondale Elementary School, Erie, PA  
Russell Elementary School, Warren, PA  
St. Stephen School, Oil City, PA

#### Community Groups

The ARC of Crawford County  
Elk County Council on the Arts (PA)  
CHAPS (Crawford County Mental Health Assistance Program), Meadville, PA

This link will take you to a wiki that shows some of my creative language activities for K-12.  
Contact me if you are interested in having me come to your school or community center as a teaching artist.

Include link to wiki.

Artist directory link:

[http://www.pacouncilonthearts.org/aie/artist\\_details.cfm?ID=1172](http://www.pacouncilonthearts.org/aie/artist_details.cfm?ID=1172)