



Learning Sessions

Finding Focus in Writing - Led by Cheryl Esparza

Room 223

Teachers always tell their students to keep their focus in writing. What exactly does that mean? Hopefully this session will break down what it means to find your focus. Students will look at how writing takes on new power when they move from the general to the specific. Examples will be shared and shown.

The Story Circle - Led by Eric Kahn Gale

Room 124

Many of the world's most powerful, engaging, and memorable stories have something in common. Some people call it an arc. Some call it a hero's journey. I call it a story circle. Join me in a lesson about this powerful tool for telling stories. We will learn what a story circle is, apply to a popular modern story, and then use it to create a new story together.

Comic Book Art & Storytelling - Led by Andrew Kudelka

Room 119

Are you a fan of comics? Do you enjoy intermixing words & pictures? Do you daydream a lot and drift away into your imagination? Interested in creating something of your own but don't know where to begin? Join Comic Art Creator & Instructor Mr. Andrew Kudelka for a brief breakdown of comic history, the creation process, and a quick brainstorm session to discover the wonderful world of visual storytelling. Genres may include Superheroes, Fantasy, Horror, and Sci-Fi to Auto-Biographical, Historical, Political, and Educational. Mix, twist, and shape your own worlds & genres. Nothing is limited, everything permitted!

Journalism: Writing the News on Deadline - Led by Pam Lannom

Room 125

What does it take to conduct a successful interview? How do reporters collect information when sources don't want to provide it? Are there times when writers need to finish a story in under an hour? Join the editor of *The Hinsdalean* to get a behind-the-scenes look at putting together news (and feature!) articles. Then take a try at writing the first few paragraph or two of a news story. This session is designed to appeal to anyone who is interested in writing — not just for newspapers.

Break the Ice With Your Characters! - Led by Amy Ostrowski

Room 221

How do you get a character from your imagination, onto the page, then into a reader's mind? You take some time to get to know them inside and out! In this session we'll explore exercises and techniques to help you discover the ins and outs of your characters so they leap from the page into your readers' imaginations.

Good Beginnings & Happy Endings - Led by Heather Scott

Room 222

In this paper, I'm going to tell you... Well, that's all. I hope you liked my story. The end. Readers can be fickle - they don't want to waste their time reading something that doesn't interest them. The beginning is the most important part of a piece of writing and must hook the reader! Also important, though, is the ending because readers do not want to feel let down and have their experience ruined. Join HMS Language Arts teacher Mrs. Scott and delve into the fun and fascinating world of writing beginnings and endings readers will love. Come ready to consider different ways to begin and end stories as well as share work! Participants are encouraged (but not required) to come with an idea or short piece of writing. All ages welcome!

A Poet's Tricks of the Trade: Making Your Poems Sing - Led by Donna Vorreyer

Room 128

Poems are sometimes treated differently than other types of writing, especially in schools. Sometimes writers think that just "writing what you feel" makes something a poem. This is just not true! Poets have tools and tricks, just like other writers, and using them to write and revise your poems can make your poems come alive. We will discuss (and practice) how poets use word choice, sound, form, and titles to make their poems more than just short lines or rhymes!