



WRITERS' LEAGUE of TEXAS

Winter/Spring 2021 Online Classes & Events Catalog

WRITERS' LEAGUE of TEXAS

Hello, writers!

I am so excited to share our full Winter/Spring schedule for 2021 with you.

We're kicking off the year with a new class package, "The Business of Writing Toolbox," featuring four classes that will help you kick start your publishing career. Spend January setting goals and intentions for your publishing dreams in 2021 and let us help you make them happen. Then, we're diving into February (& March) with our "Novel Essentials" class package. Learn about the best tools and strategies – for getting from the spark of an idea to "The End" – from some of your favorite instructors.

But that's not all! We're also offering a number of stand-alone classes that will help you polish those manuscripts and learn more about the publishing business. From "The Art of Freelance Writing" to genre-specific classes to full-day "Anatomy of a Scene" workshops, and more, there is something in this schedule for everyone.

We hope you'll join us for an incredible first-half of 2021. Whether you're joining us for a free monthly write-in, a panel discussion, or you're taking one of our classes, we look forward to spending our year with you. Goodbye 2020, hello 2021!

All the best,
Sam Babiak
Program Director

This catalog includes our upcoming online classes for January through May 2021. Click on the class title for more information, including start time and duration, or to register for the class.

All online classes are live webinars on Zoom and are recorded and made available to registrants for one week following the class.

If you have any questions, please email WLT Program Director Sam Babiak at sam@writersleague.org.

CLASS PACKAGES

The Business of Writing Toolbox Class Package (Saturdays in January, half-day classes)

\$196 for members, \$436 for nonmembers

This is the perfect package for any writer looking to jumpstart their career as a writer. From submitting to literary journals, applying to fellowships and residencies, to the agent search and beyond, writers will find themselves better equipped to take on the publishing world after these four classes. Everyone who purchases the package will get access to an exclusive Q&A session with the package instructors and they'll get the chance to meet their fellow cohort in a virtual meet-up.

Saturday, January 9: "The Straight-Up Skinny on How to Submit to Literary Journals" with M.M. Adjarian

Saturday, January 16: "Starting Your Publishing Journey" with Diane Zinna

Saturday, January 23: "Applying to Fellowships and Residencies with Confidence" with Faylita Hicks

Saturday, January 30: "The Agent Search: Tips, Tricks, and Timeless Advice" with Becka Oliver

Novel Essentials Class Package (two Saturdays in February and March, half-day classes)

\$196 for members, \$436 for nonmembers

This is the perfect package for any writer getting ready to finally write that novel. From getting the spark of an idea to the page to nailing those last sentences (and everything in between), these four classes will help any writer make their way from Chapter 1 to "The End." Everyone who purchases the package will get access to an exclusive Q&A session with the package instructors and they'll get the chance to meet their fellow cohort in a virtual meet-up.

Saturday, February 6: "The Novel Hatchery: From Idea to the Page" with Stacey Swann

Saturday, February 20: "Pacing the Plot of Your Novel or Short Story" with John Pipkin

Saturday, March 20: "Throw More Stones: How to Build Your Character Through Conflict" with Samantha M. Clark

Saturday, March 27: "Final Pages, Final Paragraphs: Crafting the Right Ending for Fiction" with Chaitali Sen

JANUARY CLASSES

Saturday, January 9: "The Straight-Up Skinny on How to Submit to Literary Journals" with M.M. Adjarian

\$49 for members, \$109 for nonmembers

You want to get your poem, essay or short story into the world. But do you know where to find journals and magazines looking to publish work in your genre, or how to effectively present your work to editors?

Saturday, January 16: "Starting Your Publishing Journey" with Diane Zinna

\$49 for members, \$109 for nonmembers

The path to publication looks different for everyone, but there are things that every writer should know when getting ready to start their journey.

Saturday, January 23: "Applying to Fellowships and Residencies with Confidence" with Faylita Hicks

\$49 for members, \$109 for nonmembers

Every writer could benefit from a little space and some dedicated time to improve their craft. In this workshop, we'll learn how you can get both!

Saturday, January 30: "The Agent Search: Tips, Tricks, and Timeless Advice" with Becka Oliver

\$49 for members, \$109 for nonmembers

Learn the process and expectations for finding a literary agent for your book.

FEBRUARY CLASSES

Wednesday, February 3: "Character Driven and Intricately Plotted Mysteries" with Sherry Thomas

\$49 for members, \$109 for nonmembers

Learn an approach to mystery writing that focuses on characters and conflict rather than figuring out your plot in advance.

Saturday, February 6: "The Novel Hatchery: From Idea to the Page" with Stacey Swann

\$49 for members, \$109 for nonmembers

Do you have a great idea for a novel but aren't sure how to dive in? Or have you already begun but hit an early wall? No matter what type of novel you're writing, this class will increase your skills and confidence to jump in head first so that your novel can crack its shell, ready to grow and fly to completion.

Wednesday, February 10: "The Art of Freelance Writing" with Alex Temblador

\$49 for members, \$109 for nonmembers

Want to see your name in a prominent newspaper or magazine? Are you interested in building a career out of your passion for writing? In this class, award-winning author and freelance writer, Alex Temblador will share all you need to know about freelance writing, from pitching a story to editors to the business side of freelancing.

Saturday, February 20: "Pacing the Plot of Your Novel or Short Story" with John Pipkin

\$49 for members, \$109 for nonmembers

In this class, participants will examine the characteristics of successful pacing and study some basic strategies for helping their story develop at the rhythm that feels well-suited to the plot. The class will also identify some of the sign-posts that can indicate pacing problems in a story and how to handle these issues in the revision stage.

Wednesday, February 24: "Flash Fiction: The Art of the Very Short Story" with Katharine Duckett

\$49 for members, \$109 for nonmembers

Can you tell a story in only 1,500 words? How about six? Learn how to craft unforgettable stories in the space of a few paragraphs in this class on flash fiction and where to publish it.

Saturday, February 27: "Anatomy of a Scene: Opening Pages" with Antonio Ruiz-Camacho

\$99 for members, \$159 for nonmembers

In this class, we'll discuss the importance of openings in fiction, dissecting some of the most indelible first pages of stories and novels ever published and discussing strategies to write compelling first lines and sections that will capture the reader's attention. This full-day class includes instruction and an afternoon workshop.

MARCH CLASSES

Wednesday, March 10: "Not Just One of the Gang: Writing Ensemble Casts" with Tracy Wolff

\$49 for members, \$109 for nonmembers

In this class, *New York Times* bestselling author Tracy Wolff reveals the psychology and the artistry that goes into putting together a powerful and engaging ensemble cast where every member feels as real, and as important, as your best friend.

Saturday, March 13: "Drama in the Details: A Day in the Life in Historical Fiction" with Sherri L. Smith

\$49 for members, \$109 for nonmembers

Are you writing a World War II adventure novel? A Victorian romance? A 1950s noir? Answer one question: What did your protagonist have for breakfast, and where? It's the small details of everyday living that really bring historical fiction to life. In this three-hour class, learn about historical worldbuilding, pitfalls and assumptions, and how to research the details.

Saturday, March 20: "Throw More Stones: How to Build Your Character Through Conflict" with Samantha M. Clark

\$49 for members, \$109 for nonmembers

Conflict isn't just for plotting. It can also help us build characters. Learn how to use conflict to develop three-dimensional characters your readers will care about and want to follow, no matter what type of novel you're writing.

Wednesday, March 24: "Crafting a Nonfiction Book Proposal" with Jessica Wilbanks

\$49 for members, \$109 for nonmembers

In this three-hour class, you'll learn about the process of selling a nonfiction book on proposal: from writing a query letter and finding an agent to structuring and drafting different parts of a book proposal and more.

Saturday, March 27: "Final Pages, Final Paragraphs: Crafting the Right Ending for Fiction" with Chaitali Sen

\$49 for members, \$109 for nonmembers

Nailing the right ending for your work of fiction is part intuition, part science. The right ending can make the difference between a good story and an unforgettable one.

APRIL CLASSES

Saturday, April 3: "Mining the World for Meaning: Finding the Universal in the Personal" with Donna M. Johnson

\$49 for members, \$109 for nonmembers

In this workshop, we will dig deep into our personal narratives while looking outside of ourselves for ideas, events and motifs that link our experiences with larger threads of meaning.

Saturday, April 10: "Anatomy of a Scene: Activating Setting" with Charlotte Gullick

\$99 for members, \$159 for nonmembers

Setting is the hidden tool in the writer's tool kit - learn to use it with more precision. This full-day class includes instruction and an afternoon workshop.

Wednesday, April 14: "Double Talk: Making Dialogue Work for You" with Jeramey Kraatz

\$49 for members, \$109 for nonmembers

Join us as author and scriptwriter Jeramey Kraatz discusses the importance of dynamic dialogue and the vital role it plays in writing.

Saturday, April 17: "Launch to Success: Self Publishing in 2021" with Deanna Roy

\$49 for members, \$109 for nonmembers

Learn the best practices for launching new books in the radically changing self-publishing climate.

Wednesday, April 21: "Crafting an Effective Novel Synopsis" with Richard Santos

\$99 for members, MEMBERS ONLY

In this special evening intensive class, you will learn the necessary components of a novel synopsis in the classroom component, and then work on your own synopsis in the lab component.

Wednesday, April 28: "Everyday Poetics: Creating Modern Forms" with Deborah D.E.E.P. Mouton

\$49 for members, \$109 for nonmembers

Modern poets are always inventing something new. With many of them beginning to create their own forms, they are reclaiming what it is to be a master of their craft. In this course, we will examine some modern day poetic forms and even create one our two of our own.

MAY CLASSES

Saturday, May 1: "Finding Your Voice" with Heather Harper Ellett

\$49 for members, \$109 for nonmembers

Find the sound of your manuscript in this three-hour online class. Explore the different elements of voice and find out how to make it your own.

Wednesday, May 12: "First Impressions are Everything: Composing a Standout Query Letter" with Becka Oliver

\$99 for members, MEMBERS ONLY

Are you polishing up your query letter to get it ready for potential agents? Or maybe you've sent a letter out and haven't received the response you hoped for. In this special intensive class, each participant will learn the essential components of a query letter and will receive feedback from the instructor and fellow students.

Saturday, May 15: "Pushing Boundaries: Writing Hybrid Forms" with Jasminne Mendez

\$49 for members, \$109 for nonmembers

Some stories need to break the rules. Hybrid works push the boundaries of genre, form, and structure to give readers a larger understanding that traditional narrative forms might limit. Join Jasminne Mendez for an exploration of what goes into writing and creating hybrid pieces.

Wednesday, May 19: "What Writers Need to Know: Marketing and Publicizing Your Book" with Katharine Duckett

\$49 for members, \$109 for nonmembers

Learn how to promote your book and which marketing and publicity tools work best for you in this class about reaching your ideal audience!

Saturday, May 22: "Write a Kickass Screenplay" with Owen Egerton

\$49 for members, \$109 for nonmembers

Award winning filmmaker and novelist Owen Egerton takes you through the process of crafting a compelling, tantalizing, and overall ass kicking screenplay. The class covers hatching the idea, outlining the plot, understanding the 3-Act structure, and filling the pages with thrill, chills, laughs, and movie magic! Perfect for writers venturing into their first screenplay or more experienced screenwriters looking for new insights and inspiration.

Wednesday, May 26: "Setting the Hook: Capturing Your Reader" with Gabino Iglesias

\$49 for members, \$109 for nonmembers

A book has a few pages to hook a reader and a few chapters to convince them to finish the book. In this class, we'll learn what to do—and what not to do—to ensure we quickly capture our readers' attention.

Saturday, May 29: "Memory Bones: Structuring the Literary Memoir" with M.M. Adjarian

\$49 for members, \$109 for nonmembers

Every memoir offers glimpses into the complex world and consciousness of another human being. But do you know how to take those husks of experience we call memory and transform them into a compelling narrative that sparks to life in readers' imaginations? This class will help you craft the bones your memoir needs to stand out.

FREE ONLINE EVENTS

JANUARY

- Saturday, January 9: Write-in**
- Wednesday, January 13: WLT Off the Beaten Craft: "Pulling from Every Genre"**
- Thursday, January 14: WLT Member Meet-Up**
- Tuesday, January 19: Write-in**
- Thursday, January 24: January Third Thursday: "Hello 2021: Our Writerly Resolutions"**

FEBRUARY

- Thursday, February 4: Ask Us Anything: Querying Agents**
- Saturday, February 6: Write-in**
- Thursday, February 11: WLT Member Meet-Up**
- Tuesday, February 16: Write-in**
- Thursday, February 18: February Third Thursday: "Me, Myself, and I: Writing the Personal"**
- Thursday, February 25: Member Game Night**

MARCH

- Thursday, March 4: Literary Chat Box Trivia**
- Saturday, March 6: Write-in**
- Thursday, March 11: WLT Member Meet-Up**
- Tuesday, March 16: Write-in**
- Thursday, March 18: March Third Thursday: "Comfort Writing: Writing About Food"**

APRIL

- Thursday, April 1: Member Town Hall**
- Saturday, April 3: Write-in**
- Thursday, April 8: WLT Member Meet-Up**
- Tuesday, April 13: Write-in**
- Thursday, April 15: April Third Thursday: "Rhyme & Reason: Writing Poetry"**
- Thursday, April 22: WLT On the Writing Life: "Channeling Anxiety & Depression into Creativity"**

MAY

- Saturday, May 8: Write-in**
- Thursday, May 13: WLT Member Meet-Up**
- Tuesday, May 18: Write-in**
- Thursday, May 20: May Third Thursday: "The Great Outdoors: Bringing the Natural World into Your Writing"**
- Thursday, May 27: Ask Us Anything: What We're Reading Now with WLT Staff + a special guest**

The WLT holds several free events every month of the year. Whether you're joining us for a write-in, a panel discussion, or for one of our series presentations, we hope you'll find that our free programming leaves you feeling inspired, informed, and ready to return to the page. To attend these events, all you need to do is click on the title and RSVP. And if you can't make the live event, most of our free events are recorded and uploaded to our Youtube channel. If you have any questions, please email WLT Program Director Sam Babiak at sam@writersleague.org.