Everyone has a story.

WE WANT YOURS.

Gotham Writers Workshop is a creative home in New York City and Online where writers develop their craft and come together in the spirit of discovery and fellowship. We’ve been teaching creative writing to students since 1993.

We believe that everyone has a story to tell. Indeed, many stories. Keep your eyes and mind open and you will find them everywhere. And we can help you tell your stories better.

Whether you’re a new writer looking to explore, or an experienced writer looking to strengthen your skills, our classes will help you reach your goals—through clear instruction on elements of craft, critique in a safe environment, and a structured process that keeps your work on track.

We also teach Business Writing, with the same verve and expertise we bring to our creative writing courses.

We strive to give each student the best possible learning experience. Class size is strictly limited so you never get lost in a crowd. And our instructors are consistently excellent—working writers who are as skilled at teaching as they are at writing.

We are invested in helping students find the writing class that is most appropriate for their particular needs. Explore our website, and feel free to discuss options via email or phone.

Thousands of people have been enriched by the Gotham experience. It’s why we’ve been around for over twenty-five years.
Ways to Learn

10-Week Workshops
These classes use a combination of lectures, exercises, and workshops (critiquing of student projects). In New York City, they meet for three hours per week; online, each session begins at the same time each week, and unfolds gradually all week long. (Timing and price is different for Business Writing.)

- **$409 — Online**
- **$435 — NYC**

Online classes draw together writers from across the globe. Available in Level I, II, III. Many of them begin the week of September 30.

- **$325 — NYC**
- **$165 — NYC**
- **$185 — NYC**
- **$175 — NYC**
- **$185 — NYC**

NYC CLASSES BEGIN THROUGHOUT SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, AND NOVEMBER. UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, MOST CLASSES BEGIN THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 30.

Courses

**Fiction**
Whether delving into the truth of your own experiences or letting us escape into an entertaining page-turner, fiction takes us through the "looking-glass" into a world that's a curious mixture of real and made-up.

- FICTION/NOVEL
- CHILDREN'S BOOKS
- SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY
- MYSTERY
- ROMANCE
- COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS
- SCRIPTWRITING

**Nonfiction**
Whether it's an experience found in your kitchen or halfway around the world, whether it's an idea you can't forget or a conversation with a fascinating person, sometimes the most intriguing stories are true.

- CREATIVE NONFICTION
- FOCUS ON GENRE
- REPORTAGE
- PERSONAL ESSAY
- ARTICLE
- TRAVEL WRITING
- FOOD WRITING

**Scriptwriting**
We all like to be entertained, whether it's watching a performance live on stage or flickering on a screen. Here's where you learn to write the material that holds those audiences in thrall.

- SCRIPTWRITING
- TV WRITING
- PLAYWRITING
- DRAMA
- DOCUMENTARY FILM
- SCREENWRITING
- WRITING SCREENPLAYS

**Comedy: Poetry & Song**
Some words staring at the lyrics of poetry or song. Or get people high on laughter through stand-up comedy or humorous prose.

- POETRY
- COMEDY
- COMIC BOOKS
- IMPROV
- SPOKEN WORD

Writing. (All Level I.

**Essentials**
Creative Writing 101 is an ideal starting point for writers, to test the waters or wash off the rust. The New York City version take place over three weeks. All Level I.

Just Write
A simple but so-essential new class. Do you find it hard to get yourself in a chair to write for a good stretch of time? If so, you're not alone. That's the beauty of Just Write. You gather with a group of writers once a week for three hours (for six weeks) and you...just write. You work on a project of your choosing, which can be any type of writing—novel, script, memoir, stand-up routines, etc. A teacher is present, offering brief features: words of wisdom, etc. A teacher is present, offering brief features: words of wisdom, etc. A teacher is present, offering brief features: words of wisdom, etc.

- CREATIVE WRITING 101
- PLOT
- CHARACTERS
- PITCH
- GRAMMAR
- THE EDITOR’S EYE
- PUBLICATIONS: TECHNIQUES FOR MAKING THE MOST OF THEM
- SOCIAL MEDIA PEN OR PAPER

**Professional Development**
These courses sharpen your skills and you...just write. You work on a project of your choosing, which can be any type of writing—novel, script, memoir, stand-up routines, etc. A teacher is present, offering brief features: words of wisdom, etc. A teacher is present, offering brief features: words of wisdom, etc. A teacher is present, offering brief features: words of wisdom, etc.

- BUSINESS WRITING
- ADVERTISING
- BUSINESS WRITING
- WRITING HOW TO GET PUBLISHED
- HOMEPAGE BOOK PROPOSAL
- FOR WEB
- BRANDING

**Teen Classes**
Pressure-free, creativity-stretching, not-like-school courses for writers ages 13-17.有用 for expanding your talent or gaining skills bound to help with essays and schoolwork.

- JUST WRITE
- PEN ON FIRE
- SOCIAL MEDIA FOR NON-POETS
- IN(VERSE): POETIC TECHNIQUES
- THE WRITER’S MIND
- THE EDITOR’S EYE
- GRAMMAR!
- CHARACTER
- PLOT
- CREATIVE WRITING 101

- COMEDY
- PROOFREADING
- BLOG BASICS
- BLOG WRITING
- HIT SEND: PUBLISHING SHORT FICTION
- NONFICTION BOOK PROPOSAL
- BUSINESS LETTERS
- BUSINESS WRITING
- MFA APPLICATION ASSISTANCE
- QUERY LETTER COACHING
- PRIV ATE GRAMMAR SESSIONS
- PRIV ATE SESSIONS AND CLASSES
- UNBOUND: CREATIVE WRITING
- TRUE STORY: CREATIVE NONFICTION
- UNBOUND: CREATIVE WRITING
- TRUE STORY: CREATIVE NONFICTION

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- UNBOUND: CREATIVE WRITING
- TRUE STOR...
The most challenging part of writing is often just getting started—daring yourself into the wide-openness of the blank page. We invite you to do just that.

To help out, we present several “story starters” and some tantalizing blank space to write upon.

Use this writing prompt as inspiration: don’t tell a soul

Now write a story that springs from this prompt in some way. It can be true or made up. Prose, script, poem, whatever you like. The trick is not to think about it, but just dive in and start writing. Let the prompt lead you wherever it wants to. Often this “no thinking” approach to writing is the best way to tap your creativity. (This will give you a taste of what we do every Friday night at our Write-Ins.)

Begin a story inspired by this photograph.

Look around you, right now. Think of a title inspired by what you see. For example, Twilight in the Park or Screaming Children or The Stack of Unpaid Bills. It doesn’t need that much thought. Then imagine (or write) a story that goes with that title.
Jane Dystel (agent): "I'm unconcerned if an agent is someone who believes in my writing. I just want someone who, if they understand your work, your process, your strengths, and your weaknesses as a writer and human being, and is willing to give the work to you. Also, be someone who returns your phone calls within a reasonable length of time. Basically, the rules of any functional relationship apply."

ALISON OHANESIAN (writer): "I'm a debut novelist who's still in the honeymoon phase with my agent. As in any relationship, there needs to be a lot of trust. What I want in an agent is someone who believes in my writing. I just want someone who, if they understand your work, your process, your strengths, and your weaknesses as a writer and human being, and is willing to give the work to you. Also, be someone who returns your phone calls within a reasonable length of time. Basically, the rules of any functional relationship apply."

DeMarco-Barrett: "What's the best way for a first-time-to-get-an-agent?

OMAR AMSTER: "The most common mistake I see aspiring writers make is approaching agents in categories they don't represent. That's why I've probably quit the spec (I'm in fact, removing myself from the spec market). That said, here are some tips and tricks for approaching agents:

1. Do your homework. Research the agent's background and style. Use the AAR (Association of Authors' Representatives) website to search for agents by the categories they represent. Write down the names of at least ten queries. It's also important to keep track of your query count and keep the query under a page long. If it gets too many queries, then you can split them into separate queries."

Dystel: "Go online, of course. There's a wealth of resources on the Internet about agents and their lists. Look at books by your favorite authors, and find out who represented them."

Ohanesian: "Another good idea is to read the acknowledgments pages in the books of writers whom you admire."

Jon Reiner: "Most aspiring writers make the mistake of expecting their first query to be the winning one. It's important to keep writing and sending out queries. I've been doing it for years, and I still haven't been published."

AMSTER: "I'm a debut novelist who's still in the honeymoon phase with my agent. As in any relationship, there needs to be a lot of trust. What I want in an agent is someone who believes in my writing. I just want someone who, if they understand your work, your process, your strengths, and your weaknesses as a writer and human being, and is willing to give the work to you. Also, be someone who returns your phone calls within a reasonable length of time. Basically, the rules of any functional relationship apply."

Still, Jon believes his memoir to be a unique, personal story. He has been told by several literary agents that his work is unlike any other he's seen. They all had the same advice: "You should continue to develop your craft and to hone your writing skills." He is grateful for the feedback and encouragement he has received from his friends and fellow writers.

Jon Reiner: "I've been writing for over 10 years, and I've learned a lot from my experiences. I've learned to trust my instincts and to listen to my inner voice. I've learned to be patient and to keep working on my craft."

For Jon, the process of writing has been a journey of self-discovery and growth. He is grateful for the opportunities he has been given, and he looks forward to continuing his journey as a writer.
Do you wish there was a place you could go for writing inspiration and practice? Where you could hang out with other writers? Without needing to make a long-term commitment or spend a lot of money? With food and drink involved?

Gotham Write-Ins are that place.

GOTHAM WRITERS CONFERENCE

We are thrilled to announce the very first Gotham Writers Conference

Friday, October 25 and Saturday, October 26, 2019
New York City

GOTHAMWRITERS.COM/CONFERENCE

FREE EVENTS

We do free classes and other fun things around New York City, at bookstores, bars, Bryant Park, etc. It’s like a big ol’ showcase of what we do and getting to know you. See our website for upcoming events.

FALL CONTEST

Frightening First Line

Autumn is the season of rustling leaves, a chill in the air, and, of course, Halloween.

In that spirit, we invite you to create the first line of a frightening story. Just the first line. But we want that first line to be so intriguing or chilling or scary that it makes our skin tingle and our nerves twitch.

Whoever writes the first line that best accomplishes this goal will receive a free Gotham class of his or her choosing.

Like many writers, Stephen King works tirelessly on his first line, saying, “My first sentences stick with me. They were a doorway I went through.”

As inspiration, here are some great first lines from frightening stories:

- The seller of lightning rods arrived just ahead of the storm. Something Wicked This Way Comes, Ray Bradbury
- Whether the dreams brought on the fever or the fever brought on the dreams Walter Gilman did not know. “The Dreams in the Witch House,” H.P. Lovecraft
- The terror that would not end for another 28 years, if it ever did, began so far as I can know or tell, with a boat made from a sheet of newspaper floating down a gutter sodden with rain. It, Stephen King

When I think of my wife, I always think of her head. Gone Girl, Gillian Flynn

For competition rules and online entry form — go to

GOTHAMWRITERS.COM/FRIGHTENING

CONTACT@GOTHAMWRITERS.COM 212-974-8377
Stories are, truly, everywhere—every place you look, everyone you meet, everything you experience. Every day is filled with hundreds of potential stories awaiting your imagination and craft.

Each month we invite you to post a story on Twitter at #GWstorieseverywhere. Your stories (which can be true or made up) will be inspired by what you see, know, or do, and they should relate in some way to these monthly themes:

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<th>SEPTEMBER</th>
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<th>NOVEMBER</th>
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At the end of each month, we will pick our favorite and reward that person with a free Gotham writing class.

Your story must be no longer than 25 words, with a max of 280 characters, including spaces and the hashtag #GWstorieseverywhere.

Everyone has a story. Especially you.

gothamwriters.com
212–974–8377