Write

Stories. Everywhere.

Summer Classes 2021
Everyone has a story.

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.

As of this printing, we don’t know when it will be safe to hold classes in NYC. Until that time, we have plenty of classes Online and through Zoom videoconference. Check our website for the most current information.
Ways to Learn

In-person classes in NYC.

Online classes.

Zoom classes.

Courses

Summer classes begin throughout June, July, and August. Registration fee for all classes $25 paid once per term.

10-Week Workshops
These classes use a combination of lectures, exercises, and workshop/critique of student projects. For NYC and Zoom, they meet for three hours per week; online, each session begins at the same time each week, and unfolds gradually all week long. Available in Level I, II, III.

$435 — NYC
$409 — Online, Zoom

6-Week Classes
These classes let students explore a variety of forms and concepts in a low-pressure manner, through a combination of lectures and exercises. In NYC and Zoom, they meet for three hours per week; two hours for Business Writing) online, each session begins at the same time each week, and unfolds gradually all week long. Available in Level I, II, III.

$325 — NYC
$309 — Online, Zoom

Selling Seminars
These courses emphasize the business side of writing. The online version takes place over four weeks. The Zoom version takes place in two three-hour sessions. The online version takes place over three weeks.

$185

Intensives
These are fast and fun crash courses. The NYC version takes place in one seven-hour day. The Zoom version takes place in two three-hour sessions.

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In-real-time via videocabling

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Write Now

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.

IT’S A VISUAL

Begin a story inspired by this photograph.

INSPIRATION FROM RESEARCH

Take a cue from the article on the following page: use research to find inspiration for a story. When you explore something new—setting, profession, lifestyle, etc.—you never know what you’ll find, but you’re bound to discover something useful for story material, be it a whole plot or just some local color. In this light, think of something you can research, perhaps even this week, perhaps just for a single day. Then dive into that research, searching for stuff you can use.

READY, SET, WRITE

Use this writing prompt as inspiration: “Just kiss me.”

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.)
Emily Rapp Black Faculty Profile

I have never had an expectation of privacy,” says Gotham instructor and memoirist Emily Rapp Black. “People have asked me personal questions not because I was a kid, but because I used to, as a kid, answer them, too. Now of course I don’t. I just say, ‘I don’t know.’ But that’s kind of like how I feel.”

In fact, Emily has written four books, two of which will be published in 2021. *Remorse A Memoir* “is an attempt to unpack the various notions of remorse that we carry as a culture.” *Pride Rides & My Leg Is a Book* length lyric essay that incorporates some of Kahlo’s journals and paintings, while circling Emily’s “lifelong obsession with Kahlo.” It is difficult, she notes, from her viewers’ sense of nonfiction. Nonetheless, it is a book that centers lived experience. “I think I get into situations to build protection around myself and my stories and to frame them in a way that I chose versus having someone assume what my experience was like,” Emily says.

Emily says, “Stories are opportunities to have conversations across time and history with other people who have gone through terrible and wonderful things.” The title of her second memoir, *The Still Point of the Turning World*, comes from T.S. Eliot’s *Four Quartets* and the book’s epigraph quotes Pablo Neruda’s “Sonnet XVI”.

“All stories have been told. There is nothing new to say, there are just new ways to say it.” Emily continues, but for the writer drudging through a tough chapter of a manuscript, an epigraph can be an anchor, a reminder of the value in continuing the conversation. There is even a conversation between the genres in Emily’s eyes. “I have a great deal of respect for the distillation of experience in poetry,” she explains. When she reads a poem written by someone else that resonates with her and returns to her own work, “then I can do my best to reference not just what I learn, but what I live, which isn’t distillation,” she says. “It’s an integration.”

With two publications dates less than six months apart, it may be difficult to believe Emily isn’t constantly writing or working on something new. “I don’t write every day, I can’t,” she says. “I have seven thousand jobs and I’m on the phone. Okay. What do you need to tell me? Okay.”

She pauses to answer her daughter, Charlie, who in six years old, then starts again, right where she left off: “So, I write in ten minute bursts.” The lack of a routine or open agenda works well for Emily. “When I was on the kids’ bus, I would read one chapter or play a song or write a story.”

But creativity does not flourish under strain. It flourishes under fewer specificities of place and of an industry that is a disorienting lifestyle, the novel began to breathe. The characters became real to me as they had not been before, and I cared what happened to them, and I knew—that first trip up for that first harvest in 2005—that the book was not dead.

Life-changing.

—Leon DeVincente, student author

Writing was something I always thought was an unreachable talent. Now I’ve learned to do it, not dream about it.

—Elizabeth Connors, art director

This is the best course I have ever taken, and since I have a master’s degree. I have taken hundreds of courses.

—Heather Stone, VP of marketing and sales
COMMUNITY

WRITE-INS (FREE)

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?

We offer free Write-Ins every Friday on Zoom, at 2 and 6:30 pm Eastern Time.

WE OFFER FREE WRITE-INS every Friday on Zoom, at 2 and 6:30 pm Eastern Time.

Here’s what happens:
The teacher gives an interesting writing prompt. Everyone writes for a while. Then, those who want to read about their work. We take a break and sometimes bring refreshments! Then you go through the process one more time. It’s writer’s heaven.

You must sign up in advance. Spots open every Thursday afternoon for the following day’s Write-In.

INSIDE WRITING TALK SHOW (FREE)

We offer a free talk show on Zoom, almost every Wednesday at 1 pm Eastern Time. It’s called Inside Writing. Every episode, three fascinating people (host, writer, agent or editor) discuss the inside scoop on publishing and writing.

You must sign up in advance.

INSIDE WRITING TALK SHOW (FREE)

Every Friday on Zoom, 2 and 6:30 pm Eastern Time
Free
See our website for details.

SUMMER CONTEST

Travel Caption

It may have been a while since you traveled, or maybe you’re just now traveling again.

Well, we want to hear about your travel adventures—past or present—but in a unique way.

Picture a memorable moment from a travel experience. (You can even make one up!) Now, visualize this moment as a photograph. Then, give us the caption for that photograph in 15 words or fewer.

It’s about capturing the moment in the caption so that we can see the photograph in our mind’s eye.

Whoever writes the best caption will win a free Gotham class of their choosing.

We did this contest a few years ago, and here are some of the best entries:

Blake Prosser
Armidale, Australia

Gladiators created the greatest spectacle in history. I did too, falling down the Colosseum stairs.
Alexandra Cerone
Ronkonkoma, New York

Colorful diamonds flooded the sky above shadowy silhouettes of the city, kite season in Islamabad!
Sally Bosson
Aali, Bahrain

For competition rules and online entry form.
— 1968 —
GOTHAMWRITERS.COM/CAPTION

CONTACT@GOTHAMWRITERS.COM
212-976-8577
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:

- **JUNE**: split second
- **JULY**: staycation
- **AUGUST**: forgiven

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