Write

Stories. Everywhere.

Winter 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.

COVID-19 NOTE:

Everyone has a story.
Ways to Learn

In-person classes in NYC.

Online classes.

Zoom classes.

10-Week Workshops
These classes use a combination of lectures, exercises, and workshoping (critiquing of student projects). In 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
$495 — 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. The Zoom version takes place in two three-hour sessions. The NYC version takes place over four weeks. The Zoom version takes place in two three-hour sessions. The online version takes place over three weeks.

$175

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Zoom classes.

Courses

Fiction
Whether delving inside the truth of our everyday lives 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.

Creative Writing 101

Thematic Fiction

Science Fiction & Fantasy

Mystery

Romance

Comics & Graphic Novels

Reading Fiction

Nonfiction

Whether it’s an experience found in your kitchen or hairdressing 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 101

Memoir

Essay & Opinion

Personal Essay

Article

Travel Writing

Food Writing

Scriptwriting

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.

Writing Scripts 101

Screenwriting

TV Writing

Playwriting

Documentary Film

Scriptknife Focus

Video Game Writing

Web Series

Comedy. Poetry & Song

Sound words starting in the lyricalism of poetry or song. Or get people high on laughter through stand-up comedy or humorous prose.

Poetry

Songwriting

Stand-up Comedy

Contact

Gotham Writers is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, EIN 13-4620257.
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.

Write Now
@GOTHAMWRITERS
GOTHAMWRITERS.COM
twitter  Facebook  instagram  LinkedIn

Begin a story inspired by this photograph.

IT’S A VISUAL

Begin a story inspired by this photograph.

VISUAL STORYTELLING

Think of a story you’re writing or might write. Imagine it’s a movie, if it’s not already. Write an opening sequence for the story that tells what’s happening in a purely visual manner. No description or dialogue. Make it gripping and dramatic, just with the visuals. As inspiration, read the article on the following page: “Film is a Visual Medium.”

READY, SET, WRITE

Use this writing prompt as inspiration: now or never

Now write a story that springs from this prompt in some way. It can be true or made up. Poem, 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 at our Write-Ins.)
I wrote a book where I murdered everybody in
Amina says she sees, “coyotes, javelinas, and bob
Arizona, “on the side of a mountain, in the middle
A twister spinning a house high
A girl with fire-colored hair racing
A bumbling detective covering
Wizard of Oz)
—Eli Cross, a megalomaniacal
writhing hydra.
—Alexander Steele is the president of
SEE MORE FACULTY
ARTICLES AND PROFILES ON
Gotham Faculty

I loved the corps of writers. We became a family during a cluster of
crazy times in history. Each had

AMINA AKHTAR
Faculty Profile
BY JAMIE CROMWELL

“arrested with a storm.” A week after
Surrounded by red rocks and forests of cactus, Amina says she sees, “cypress, junipers, and bob-
more than I see people.” The scene is in stark
contrast to her erstwhile city life.

Before Arizona, New York City was a place of
grief and change, was a desire “to learn
and “I kind of wasn’t leaving my apartment, as it
needed something to focus on. She began writing
a novel: “It fulfilled me in a way that nothing has
been, I can’t explain.” Amina says about writing fiction.

It goes without saying that the pace in Sedona is
different: “I feel like I’m doing a lot less. Building in
routine: “I feel like I’m doing a lot less. Building in

Before Arizona, before New York Fashion Weeks,
and killing her all sole in the desert. We all
Texas, and there was 9-year-old Amina writing a
diary, she just slipped my way in there.” Indisputably, more
than luck is required in working at

Phantom of the
The Passion of Joan
—Jennifer Daugherty, middle school English teacher

Thank you.

—Sandy Haeuser, assumption

You can only learn to write by writing. Gotham Writers Workshop allows you to
support that work and help them to accomplish their goal.

INDEX النبي الذي ي بكلمة
لله، اتبعوا اليه في كل
חוץ كان يقال
Butch

ENGLISH (US)

Contact

Got to go

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Go ahead, think of a favorite movie, right now. What happens?

These images can print themselves
deployed as metaphors. A personal
example. On a Saturday afternoon,
when I was around five-years-old, I
gathered around the TV with some
older kids to watch a horror movie,
The Tingler. [Bad idea] I only
remember one thing about that movie.
But it’s as if it’s image I
will never shake. There was this lady,a
dead snail, and she was lying in bed
and then this evil presence entered the
room and she screamed, “Murderer!” in some
devastatingly dramatic voice. Terror
overwhelmed the lady’s face and she tried
to scream but because of her condi-
tion as a dead snail she couldn’t get
the scream out. Now, nobody consid-
ers The Tingler a great horror movie
and I might have found the whole thing
laughable if I thought it was a stretch but
let me tell you that image chilled me
in the deepest place. In my mind’s
eye, I couldn’t stop seeing that
image trapped in my mind.
By Alexander Steele

If I go on to be a successful published
writer, and I will, it will be because of
the Gotham teachers I took.
—Brenda Bordes, business executive

I had many epiphanies. Thank you.
—Janice Creaney, faculty profile

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لله، اتبعوا اليه في كل
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INDEX النبي الذي ي بكلمة
لله، اتبعوا اليه في كل
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We offer a free talk show on Zoom, 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, each episode focusing on a particular genre—fiction, memoir, SFF, etc.

You must sign up in advance.

INSIDE WRITING TALK SHOW (FREE)

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You must sign up in advance.

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.

HERE’S WHAT HAPPENS:
The teacher gives an interesting writing prompt. Everyone writes for a while. Then, those who want to read aloud do so. We take a break and socialize (bring refreshments). Then you go through the process one more time. It’s writers heaven.

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

INVENT WORD

We invite you to invent a word. Not just any word. A word you think will greatly enhance the English language.

Interestingly, there are words that mean “invented words”; the fancy word is neologism (invented by Thomas Jefferson) and the informal word is sniglet (invented by Rich Hall).

The word you invent might be...

- Adopted for the times. Such as COVID-19 or doomscrolling.
- Sprung from politics. Such as muckraker or Obamacare.
- Formed by merging two previously existing words. Such as bootlicious or blog.
- Related to the worlds of science fiction or fantasy. Cyberspace was invented by William Gibson for the novel Neuromancer. Muggle was invented by J.K. Rowling for the Harry Potter books.
- Just a good sound. Such as chortle or persnickety.
- Or just a word that we need. Such as zoned or neologism.

Nobody invented more words than Shakespeare. To name a few:

articulate, banter, bellicose, boogies, bump, cleaver, coruscation, demur, expanse, eyeball, fugal, hoop, intransigant, interlocut, lumbrous, majestic, minisc, snowbear, shovet, snot, suspend,规矩, unsplendid, vulnerable, snap.

Though it’s an honorable practice, we discourage simple morphing (just a new word). For example, turning a noun into a verb, as in googling, or a noun into an adjective, as in flowery. Those probably won’t wow us enough to win.

So, here’s the deal. Give us the word, a one-sentence definition, and use the word in a sentence. For example...

Cyberspace – an alternate reality that exists solely inside the digital world of computers. Maurice cruised through cyberspace in search of the perfect answer.

The inventor of the best word gets a free Gotham class of his or her choosing.

For competition rules and online entry form, visit GOTHANWRITERS.COM/INVENTWORD

CONTACT@GOTHANWRITERS.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:

- **DECEMBER**: mother's advice
- **JANUARY**: who am I?
- **FEBRUARY**: unforgettable evening

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.