

Get Writing

Introduction to the course

KWR310X Autumn session

16th Sept - 2nd Dec

Mike Howarth

Session structure

- Exercises in session.
 - The logic..... Writer's avoid writing wherever possible. You will not have to opportunity to do this!!
 - You will be making notes and having ideas during the week and at least write in this session.
- Input from me
- Homework
- Summary

Remember to bring

- USB Memory Stick
- Log-in details
- Ring Folder

1 Managing ideas

■ 2 sessions

- Creating ideas
- Selecting ideas
- Developing ideas
- Organising ideas
 - Overcoming writer's block
 - Your own space
 - Tools of the trade
 - Tricks of the trade

Course structure con't

2 Developing a story (2 sessions)

- Types of story
- Story structure

3 Developing plot (2 sessions)

- Memory, adding meaning
- Importance of place

Course structure con't

4 Developing character (2 sessions)

- Narration and description
- Writing skills: Sentence structure, dialogue punctuation, scene, reportage.

Course structure con't

5 Script adaptation for radio and TV (2 sessions)

- Radio script requirements techniques the language of radio.
- TV script requirements techniques the language of film.

Course structure con't

6 Final Aim

- *A well presented personal portfolio of work
(1 final session)*

Exercise 1: Intro

Writing from Life

- Use your own experience.
- Use fragments – little bits and pieces.
- Use any little encounter.

Writing from personal interest

- Investigate and research a subject that you are passionate about.
- Enjoy getting all your facts straight.

Exercise 1: Con't

Look for ideas in:

- Newspapers– Is there an event that could be fictionalised?
- Biographies– Is another person's life good material?
- Plays/Movies– Is there a scene or character that could be expanded into a whole new story?
- Activities– Does a sport or activity contain a whole world of people with interesting stories?

Class Exercise 1: Con't

Inspiration Triggers

- Adaptation is one way of finding inspiration from existing material. Your version of the Canterbury Tales

Searching for a story often starts with finding the right characters.

- They grow out of characters.
- Inspiration can also come from other storytellers, i.e memory of my family is people chatting – people telling jokes and stories.

Exercise 1: Con't

Getting Started

- Spot ideas for scenes or characters around you in your daily life. Write them down!
- Exercise, the more you do it, the easier it becomes.
- Writers never never have a blank sheet of paper.
- Start slowly, build up. Move sideways. The notebook

Final Word

- Still staring at that blank screen or piece of paper? What do you do?
- Write anything at all.
- Find a space or a style that's physically comfortable for you.

We use this as an idea to stimulate ideas for writing. But also an opportunity to look at good writing practice which you should follow.

What if...but also... analysis

MARLBOROUGH An amateur musician lost a violin worth £180,000 when he left it on a train. Robert Napier, 67, left the rare Goffriller violin on the luggage rack of a train from Paddington to Taunton as he returned to his home in Bedwyn, Wiltshire. The violin was made in Venice in 1698 by the craftsman Matteo Goffriller and had been in the family for 100 years. Mr Napier, a retired shipping consultant and grandfather of two, said it was a “terrible moment” when he realised that he had forgotten it. Allianz, his insurance company, is offering a reward of £10,000 for its return.

Let's look at the way this story has been constructed. First we will look at the way the information is immediately provided

Place-where

person -subject -who

Object - what

What if..... analysis

MARLBOROUGH An amateur musician lost a violin worth £180,000 when he left it on a train. Robert Napier, 67, left the rare Goffriller violin on the luggage rack of a train from Paddington to Taunton as he returned to his home in Bedwyn, Wiltshire. The violin was made in Venice in 1698 by the craftsman Matteo Goffriller and had been in the family for 100 years. Mr Napier, a retired shipping consultant and grandfather of two, said it was a “terrible moment” when he realised that he had forgotten it. Allianz, his insurance company, is offering a reward of £10,000 for its return.

where

In the first line we know who what where of the story. We know where we are in this story. You have more space in a story - a page a paragraph - these are the conventions. Use them, at least to begin with

Place-where 2 person -subject -who 2

Object - what 2

What if..... analysis

MARLBOROUGH An amateur musician lost a violin worth £180,000 when he left it on a train. Robert Napier, 67, left the rare Goffriller violin on the luggage rack of a train from Paddington to Taunton as he returned to his home in Bedwyn, Wiltshire. The violin was made in Venice in 1698 by the craftsman Matteo Goffriller and had been in the family for 100 years. Mr Napier, a retired shipping consultant and grandfather of two, said it was a “terrible moment” when he realised that he had forgotten it. Allianz, his insurance company, is offering a reward of £10,000 for its return.

The importance of repetition and revelation. People don't get it first time so repeat. Give the info in more manageable chunks. Repeat. More detail revealed

Place-where 3 person -subject -who 3 Object - what 3

What if..... analysis

MARLBOROUGH An amateur musician lost a violin worth £180,000 when he left it on a train. Robert Napier, 67, left the rare Goffriller violin on the luggage rack of a train from Paddington to Taunton as he returned to his home in Bedwyn, Wiltshire. The violin was made in Venice in 1698 by the craftsman Matteo Goffriller and had been in the family for 100 years. Mr Napier, a retired shipping consultant and grandfather of two, said it was a “terrible moment” when he realised that he had forgotten it. Allianz, his insurance company, is offering a reward of £10,000 for its return.

resolution

The importance of repetition and revelation. Here there is a 3rd level of reinforced information

Climax

Resolution/ ending

What if..... analysis

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This is a sketch of the level of emotion through the story



Now the detail is firmly covered we have a Climax and a Resolution or Hope or at least a clear 'ending.'

For 30th Sept

Session 1 Homework

Why not try one of these ideas?

- 1) Bring an example of a magazine, newspaper article. No longer than a page. (To be photocopied)
- 2) Bring along an example of your own writing.
- 3) We will continue to look at ideas generation and applying some of the basic rules in the example