

Western Illinois University
Writing Festival Schedule

Time	Workshop #1	Workshop #2	Workshop #3
10:00-10:50	<p style="text-align: center;">“Writing in Place” Creative Non-Fiction</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ms. Jennifer Mcgaha</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Write about how place impacts and effects self and identity.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“Connecting on the Web”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Bradley Dilger</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Learn about writing and creating weblogs and linking to social media.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“Shakespeare Re-Expressed!”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Christopher Morrow</p> <p>Sometimes we fall into the trap of taking Shakespeare too seriously. All too often, he is “that writer we HAVE to read and HAVE to adore.” But, more than that, Shakespeare was a writer and a poet who loved playing and experimenting with language and stories. He loved to take works by other writers and re-express them in his own way. In <i>that</i> tradition of Shakespeare, we are going to read a sonnet or perhaps a famous speech from Shakespeare and then play with and re-express his language. We will re-write and re-create Shakespeare into forms (a series of tweets, a pop song, an email) that speak to us in similar ways that Shakespeare spoke to people in his day.</p>
11:00-11:50	<p style="text-align: center;">"Animate Your Writing"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Rick Clemons</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Watch some animated film clips, and write about some surprising themes in the "cartoons."</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">"Flash Fiction: Big Stories in Small Spaces"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ms. Barb Harroun</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"These stories, small as they were, had a huge appetite; little fat monsters that gobbled up ideas like chicken nuggets." ~ David Gaffney</p> <p>In this session we'll read, and listen to, flash fiction. We'll look at what's in the story's text, and what the author withheld, and the combined effect created within a story less than 700 words. We'll discuss how the form of flash fiction dictates a compression of the traditional elements of craft, but doesn't diminish the size of the ideas or themes contained within the story. The form is a fence, but the story itself can be as wild and dangerous as a posse of rabid raccoons. We'll write and share flash fiction too, and celebrate a form that has a bevy of apps, web sites and literary journals dedicated to sharing the art.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“A Spectacle and Nothing Strange: Surreal and Experimental Techniques”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. David Banash</p> <p>Blurb: This workshop will concentrate on techniques developed by modernists, surrealists, and postmodernists to reveal hidden dimensions of everyday language by thinking about words as games and dreams. In our workshop, we will practice their techniques to create writing in which, as Gertrude Stein puts it, all is "not ordinary, not unordered in not resembling. The difference is spreading."</p>

12:00-1:00	Lunch and Awards		
1:00-1:50	<p style="text-align: center;">“Dream Notebook”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ms. Jacque Wilson-Jordon</p> <p>In <i>The Practice of Poetry: Writing Exercises from Poets Who Teach</i> (ed. Robin Behn and Chase Twichell), poet Maxine Kumin’s “Dream Notebook” exercise suggests recording dream fragments in a notebook to better understand “how [the] unconscious mind free associates.” The results may lead to a poem. Participants will be asked to recall a dream, write a poem, and (if they like) share with the group.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“Everyday Writer-Activism”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Shazia Rahman</p> <p>In this workshop, students will learn the importance of using writing to advocate for environmental and social justice. The bulk of the workshop will involve teaching students to become writer-activists themselves by creating documents that advocate for a cause that is important to them.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“Social Justice in the Classroom”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Bonnie Sonnek</p> <p>Students will explore and write about injustice, bullying and other social issues. We will share our thoughts and work on these important issues.</p>