Finding Your Writer’s Voice
(Preliminary Syllabus)

Course Code: CW 06

Quarter: Fall 2021
October 16th and 17th and 23rd and 24th, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm PST

Instructor: Marisa Handler

Note about Live Attendance: These class sessions will not be recorded. This will be an interactive class and participation is required.

Course Credit: This is a one-unit class, and credit will be based on attendance (50%) and participation (50%). Participation includes both class discussion and writing exercises.

Please note:
This will be a collaborative environment in which you will share your own experience as well as contribute to the development of your peers’ process. Over the course of our two weekends together, we will explore the writer’s voice—both our own and those represented in reading selections—culminating with sharing our writing in small group workshops.

Class Outline:
The following topics will be covered on each day:

Saturday, October 16th
• Introductions
• Voice: Your most potent tool
• Sound: Voice in the body, voice on the page
• Finding the music: How do you sing? (Exercise: Writing nonsense)

Sunday, October 17th
• Vocal range: A sampler of possibilities
• Voice as a vehicle for meaning
• The raw voice: Inner listening & freewriting
• Distillation: Whittling down to authenticity

Saturday, October 23rd
• Mining the urgency: Making it matter
• Story and voice: Momentum and unity
• Character and voice
• Revision: Refining while preserving

Sunday, October 24th
• Workshop: Sharing our voices