Workshop Preliminary Syllabus

Quarter: Fall 2016
Instructor: Maria Finn

Class Outline:

Pre-Assignment

Please bring a laptop to class if possible and two magazines that you would like to write for.

Day 1: November 12th

1. Engage all the senses of the readers or audience. Smell, sounds, touch, and taste, along with sight, will help you write scenes that are emotionally resonant and draw the reader into the action.

2. Set the tone with telling details.


4. Creating Your “Hook”

5. Why this story is important now and why you should be writing it.

6. Creating the perfect paragraph: A paragraph is a microcosm of the entire idea or proposal. Each one needs a beginning, a detailed middle and a conclusion.

Day 2: November 19th

1. Craft the Query, based on techniques learned in Day 1

2. Profiles and Purpose/ Interview techniques

3. Analyze magazine articles to learn about structure, multiple sources, and use of research

4. Online research tools for journalists

4. Contacting Editors/ Cover Letters and bios

5. Selling your story ideas/ Power of the strong pitch

6. Discuss handout of resources for publication
Grade Options:

No Grade Requested: This is the default grade option. Just show up for class!

Requirements for a Letter Grade and/or Credit: Attend both class sessions and turn in all assignments.