

\*This is the cover of my first  
CWI student workbook! What do  
you think? And the following  
four pages are my syllabus!

**CWi**

Correctional Writer's  
Initiative



Student  
Assignment  
Booklet

# An Introduction to Creative Writing

Session 1

# Stand Out from the Crowd with



Correctional Writer's Initiative  
Educating Prisoners in the art of prose and verse  
since 2014

© "We Write; therefore we are."\*

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## COURSE SYLLABUS

### CREATIVE WRITING

Here's what you'll learn with CWI

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#### Session 1

### AN INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING

#### LESSON 1

A brief overview of what creative writing is!  
Making your first scene, and constructing dialogue.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL

Copyright protection for your writing, and an  
introduction to defamation and suits.

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#### Session 2

### WRITING A SHORT STORY: GETTING STARTED

#### Part 1

#### LESSON 1

What is a short story/your genre and you!

#### LESSON 2

Characters/Dialogue/Voice/Point of View

#### LESSON 3

Plot & Structure/Pattern in your prose

#### LESSON 4

Setting & Atmosphere

#### LESSON 5

Flashbacks/Flashforward/Frames/Domino Theory

#### Part 2

#### LESSON 6

Beginnings, Middles, and Ends

#### LESSON 7

Advanced Scene Structure/Narrative voice

#### LESSON 8

Self-editing!

LESSON 9  
Your short story collection

LESSON 10  
Tying your stories together in theme and cross-character(s)



SUPPLEMENTAL  
\* Author studies (i.e., Vonnegut, Salinger, etc.)  
\* Fan Fic: The Twilight in You!  
\* Manuscript format  
\* Literary journals  
Cover & Query letters  
will be produced for  
student works, and submitted!



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Session 3

AN INTRODUCTION TO POETRY & PROSE

LESSON 1  
The Elements of Poetry

LESSON 2  
Form & Structure

LESSON 3  
Collections/Publication/What Editors Want!

SUPPLEMENTAL  
\* Manuscript format  
\* Cover & Query letters  
\* Poetry journals

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Session 4

AN INTRODUCTION TO PERSONAL ESSAY & MEMOIR

LESSON 1  
Telling Your Story

LESSON 2  
Adapting your story into form and structure

LESSON 3  
How to make your story count/How to avoid being sued, or having your story stolen!

SUPPLEMENTAL  
\* Flash Essays/Flash Memoirs  
\* Defamation and Infringement  
\* Memoir outline, notes to get started

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Session 5

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WRITING A NOVEL: GETTING STARTED

Part 1

LESSON 1

Elements of Fiction/Short Story v. Novel

LESSON 2

Literature/Classics/The Great Books and your ode to them.

LESSON 3

Genres and the Mainstream

LESSON 4

Elements of the Novel/Getting started!

LESSON 5

Plot & Pattern/Structure of Scenes/and Theory of Causality

Part 2

LESSON 6

Characters/Conflicts/Your Protagonist and You

LESSON 7

Setting/Backstory

LESSON 8

Dialogue/Point of View/Transitions/Pacing/  
To Epi- Pro-logue; or not to -logue at all!

LESSON 9

No novel? How about a novella...?

LESSON 10

The business of Writing/The Publishing Industry.

SUPPLEMENTAL

- \* Novel Outline
- \* Copyright protections
- \* Writer's Resources
- \* Cover & Query letters

**Publish your book**

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Session 6

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AN INTRODUCTION TO WRITING MOVIE, TV, AND PLAY SCRIPTS

LESSON 1

TV/Sitcom: Writing that Pilot Episode

Lesson 2

Movie Screenplays

LESSON 3  
Playwriting and YOUR stage!

GET YOUR NOVEL OR  
STORY IDEA PRODUCED AS

**A MOTION PICTURE**

SUPPLEMENTAL

- \* Batman "The Dark Knight," screenplay
- \* Star Trek, trouble with Tribbles original classic
- \* "The Big Bang Theory," Tribbles crossover

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Session 7

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WRITING FOR PUBLICATION OVERVIEW: YOUR FINAL THESIS

- \* Students will work on the polishing of a publishable story/novella/poetry set/essay/flash memoir/screenplay/or One Act play--to be published in "The Portable Prisoner" a collection of student works with final edit, and forward, done by CWI founder, J.E. Mahaffey

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Your Future in Writing

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The goal of CWI is to produce writers of literary quality, and weight. The course material will focus on writing that has an underlining message that has something to add to humanity and society.

No biased writing, no racist writing, no gang writing, no defamation of living or non-living persons, no slandering of SCDC/BRCI/Staff, and certainly no plagiarism! All CWI students will adhere to the writer's Code of Ethics as outlined by the National Writers Association, NWA; and the Standards of Practice, used nationally by the writing community to illicit morality in the industry. Any deviations of code can get a student on academic probation, or removed from CWI altogether and their name--and work--stickened from its records.

Students fortunate enough to graduate from CWI, will do so with a working knowledge of the publishing industry; each with their publication in "The Portable Prisoner," acting as a credential opening doors for them into the offices of editors. The copyright of all student works remain the students! However, the final thesis within "The Portable Prisoner," (that will be published as a FREE downloadable e-book, as non-profit) will become property of "public domain." This is an unavoidable consequence, but CWI believes the pros far outweigh the cons, as each student is an officially published writer. Each graduating class will compile a new subsequent volume to "The Portable Prisoner." This course is taught at a college level, and each student must have a high school diploma or GED, those currently enrolled in GED may apply only with the Education Department's recommendation, and must maintain their GED studies at an acceptable level to remain with CWI.

The CWI is an idea that's been mulled around in my head for quite some time, since about 2009 or so; and some events occurred this past two months to serendipitously bring it about.

First, several of my poems were published--and a few were even added to the SCDC website. This got some attention, needless to say, and then results of some of my educational testings came back with some of this highest scores in the nation--which got the light on me brighter. Then, knowledge of my publishing credits with various literary magazines, and my diploma in Creative Writing, etc., all came to light. I soon found myself on the Character Council--sitting in a monthly meeting with wardens, staff, and other high ranking SCDC members, on the topic of self-improvement programs. My idea of CWI came out and et voila!

I designed the cover you see, and the syllabus, the actual booklet is 36 pages only, giving a quick overview of what exactly Creative Writing is. The students are given a course that on the outside of the street would cost literally thousands of dollars, but for free, and at NO COST TO TAX PAYERS! That's the beauty of what I've created, it operates at no cost, I've gotten support from universities and humanity groups that will gladly help in the endeavor of bettering some of the prisoners that show aptitude for writing. Those that have something good to contribute to society.

What do I get out of it?

Well, don't forget, Vonnegut taught....

