

CONNECTION

Everyone Can Write!

The SLCC Community Writing Center

Spring 2019 | Vol. 19, No. 1

Everyone Can Write

By Kayden Groves

Titles can be uncomfortable sometimes, and for me the title *Writing Coach* was one of those uncomfortable titles. I was much more comfortable with the title of designer and the other half of my position, Publications Coordinator. Maybe you don't feel comfortable with the title of *writer*, but neither did I.

While working at the CWC, I've noticed that the writing and design processes are very similar. From my perspective, they are the same path with different focuses and final destinations. Because of the similarities in our creative processes, writers and designers can benefit from the nuances of each other's processes.

We designers hoard inspiration as a part of our process. This hoarding is quite efficient with digital storage but I also have shelves overflowing with paper samples, cool packaging, and books that inspire me. We never know when we might want to borrow a layout or color scheme we love from something that's already out there. I am not, however, advocating for stealing someone else's creative work. All design and writing are remixes of old and new ideas with the creativity of the artist.

Writers can, and should hoard inspiration too. Love the plot of a story, or the way another writer describes a scene? Then save it, and use it as a springboard to give life to a new creation.

Something I've learned from the writing process that now informs my design process is to focus on higher level concerns first and figure out the superfluous details later. In writing jargon, we call these global revision and surface revision. It can be really easy for us designers to get fixated on lower level concerns like kerning (the space between letterforms). However, if the higher level concerns (like the layout) aren't working, then it isn't worth fixing the kerning while the layout needs to be changed. The same idea applies to the writing process. If the overall structure of a piece isn't working then it isn't worth worrying about whether you used the correct *their* or if a sentence is fragmented.

I am extremely grateful for all the writers out there, because your work forms the basis of almost all graphic design. Without you I wouldn't have an industry to aspire to make my career in. I've enjoyed interacting with all of the writers I've met through the CWC, and now feel confident in saying I'm a writer too. Thank you.



Kayden Groves
Marketing & Publications Coordinator

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COMMUNITY
Writing
CENTER

(801) 957-2192

slcc.edu/cwc

210 E 400 S #8

Salt Lake City, UT 84111

210 E 400 S Suite 8
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
11/30/2018

Dear Readers,

Letter writing these days seems to be something of a lost art. Sure we get a lot of mail, but it's all business, bills, and advertisements. I hardly ever see an actual handwritten letter, and even greeting cards are sent less and less. The age of email is upon us, and yes, being able to send your thoughts without paying for stamps is great, but (and I may be wrong) it doesn't tend to become a keepsake.

For instance, when I was young my father worked out of state and would send me a postcard every week. I saved every single one of them because I knew it meant he was thinking of me, and if I ever needed a reminder all I had to do was open my shoebox full of postcards to know. It's often the things we do that take a little bit of effort that mean the most to others.

So I want to encourage you to write a letter to someone you've been thinking about, or if not a letter, then drop them a postcard. Who knows, you may gain a pen pal for your trouble.

Best Regards,

Raymond Rivers

Special Projects Coordinator

Need feedback on your writing?

One-on-one writing coaching is always free. Our coaching is open to anyone who needs help or feedback on their writing. Schedule your 30-minute session today! Last session one hour before closing.

SLCC Community Writing Center Hours

210 E 400 S, Suite 8
Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

How Do I Love Poetry? Let Me Count the Ways...

by CeeCee Sigman, DWS Mentor

One of the most beautiful things about poetry is that we each find our way to it in our own way. It can start as an exercise to develop other art forms, as a hobby whose moving parts are like a puzzle or game of strategy, as a way to send a message and incite change for the future, or a chance to become part of a long legacy. There are the poets who would die at the thought of publication—writing privately as a therapeutic release or way of understanding the world—and poets who delight in stealing glimpses into the secret shames and desires of others that so easily mirror our own.

Our love of the art form knits us together, but we each approach it from a deeply personal angle—which is why it can be difficult to judge or understand the work of others. The subjective nature of verse is both freeing and infuriating. Its subtleties do not give themselves up easily. The experience of reading a poem is immersive, visceral, and non-linear—like

looking at the world through water. It teaches us to adjust our perspective, to borrow the lens of someone else, and to empathize. In times that feel increasingly divisive, it is heartening to see a revival of our interest in poetry, as this seems a sign that our better nature is surfacing; a sign of our efforts to connect. The Salty Pond Poets is a fledgling group, having only been inaugurated into the DiverseCity Writing Series in the summer of 2018. Although our members are all avid fans of poetry, we host a team of writers with diverse talents: from week to week, we will find ourselves discussing members' memoirs, screenplays, and multi-media projects. All are welcome. Elisabeth Frost and myself co-mentor, but we really prefer to think of ourselves as "facilitators"—as ours is a very communal environment where each person contributes insight. Some meetings we laugh together, some we cry, occasionally we actually get good work done. But we always learn from one another; you can count on that.

*Salty Pond Poets Meets at the CWC
on the 1st and 3rd Mondays, from 6:30-8 p.m.*

DiverseCity Writing Series

DiverseCity Writing Series is a collection of writing groups hosted by the Community Writing Center to give writers of all backgrounds a voice and a community.

Gay Writes

Community Writing Center
210 East 400 South, Suite #8
2nd and 4th Mondays, 6:30-8 p.m.

Silver Pen

Community Writing Center
210 East 400 South, Suite #8
1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 12-2 p.m.

Authors in Training

The County Library | Riverton
12877 South 1830 West
2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

The Literacy Action Center - Thurs.

Salt Lake County Housing Authority
3595 South Main Street
1st and 3rd Thursdays, 5-7:30 p.m.

Mount Olympus

Mount Olympus Senior Center
1635 Murray Holladay Road
2nd and 4th Tuesdays 10-11:30 a.m.

Salty Pond Poets

Community Writing Center
210 East 400 South, Suite #8
1st and 3rd Mondays, 6:30-8 p.m.

The Literacy Action Center - Fri.

Salt Lake County Housing Authority
3595 South Main Street
1st and 3rd Fridays, 12-2 p.m.

South Valley Wasatch Writers

The County Library | Sandy
10100 Petunia Way
Tuesdays, 12-1:30 p.m.

King's English

SLCC South City Campus Library
1575 South State Street, Room 1-022C
2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m.

Copper Quill

Majestic Meadows Mobile Home Park
4580 South 1055 West
1st and 3rd Thursdays, 12:30-2 p.m.

West Side Stories

The County Library | Hunter
4740 West 4100 South
1st and 3rd Thursdays, 6:30-8 p.m.

The Voice of Salt Lake

by Raymond Rivers

I am a transplant to the state of mind that is Utah, and at times I have a little trouble connecting since I don't share a lot of the cultural roots. However, I am a curious sort and I've chased the rabbit down the hole and gone paging through our old publications of *sine cera*, and brushing up on the history of it.

After a while of reading the old publications of *sine cera* I began to hear the multilayered voice of the community. Sure the stories may not seem connected on the surface, but given enough time the voice comes through. Volume 21 in particular exemplifies this; it was titled *Reflections*, and as the preface concludes, "Each piece of writing is a reflection of its author; collectively they are a reflection of this community."

Here's the nutshell version of what I learned from reading them. We (the Community Writing Center) opened our doors in 2001 and started up the DiverseCityWriting Series with only four groups to its name. In the summer of 2002, we decided to expand it. Groups were meeting regularly, we were preparing volunteer mentors, and working towards getting our anthology published. The first anthology was in September of 2003; it was full of hope and the simple love of sharing our works with others. There are twenty-one DiverseCity Writing Series anthologies currently published as I write this, with a twenty second due before the end of 2019.

If you haven't already, I would encourage you to read through the volumes at your leisure, and see what pops out for you. We have many copies still at the center, and our most recent issue is in pdf format on our website. If you're already part of our writing series, or want to join a group, you can add your own voice to our newest volume. In fact, we would love to have you!

For further information or instructions on how to submit your work for the next DWS anthology give us a call at 801-957-2192

For a list of DWS Groups you can join see page 3 of this newsletter.



DiverseCity Writing Series Spring Reading

Every year we come together to celebrate our community of wonderful writers. This April we will be unveiling the 22nd installation of the DWS anthology *sine cera*. We invite you to join us in celebration of the voices that make up our community and get a glimpse into the lives of others as they share their poems, stories, and reflections of real and imagined life.

April 18 from 6-8 p.m.
Salt Lake City Main Library
210 East 400 South
4th Floor Conference Room

During the reading DWS writers will be sharing excerpts from their own works with a live audience.

Afterwards, there will be a reception with refreshments at the Community Writing Center.

Writer's Block (and Solutions)

by Emily Sadlier, CWC Intern

It happens to every writer: sometimes your mind just goes blank. What do you do then? There are several things that you can do that might help you, from simply taking a break to reflection while traveling.

Sometimes your mind going blank just means you need a break. So take a little break. Go get a snack, watch a movie, anything that will give your mind a chance to rest, even simply stopping to reflect while travelling. Going for a walk might also help. Walking helps rejuvenate the mind, and so can help you in the creative process.

Let's admit it: we all do some thinking when we're taking a shower. We come up with some of the best thoughts as the water is pounding on our head. It's happened to me before where I was in the shower and reflecting on where I could take a story, and came up with some ideas that actually turned out to work.

We also do a lot of thinking as we are falling asleep. Try reflecting on your story as you are falling asleep; our imagination gets very active as we prepare to dream, and focusing the active imagination on your story might just help you get out of a spot where you're out of ideas for what comes next.

The scenario where you're traveling and there's not much to do, so you either look out the window and let your mind wander, or turn on the radio, might be familiar to you. Glossing over your story so far and letting your mind wander with it during travel can help when there's a lack of ideas. Who knows? Maybe the setting of where you're travelling from or to could inspire you!

Writer's block happens to every writer. It's nothing to get too stressed about. Don't force yourself to write when you're out of ideas; it makes writing tedious for you and reading less fun for the reader. Our best works always come about when we're fully inspired and motivated to write our stories. Overworking yourself is never a good idea; writing is and should be fun for you!

Shoutout to our Volunteers!

We couldn't do it without you!

Maggie Abney	Dianne May
Shaylee Anderson	Katherin Nelson
Tere Archibald	Victor Ngyuen
Cleopatra Balfour	Genevieve Poe
Sydney Bishop	Reiley Porter
James Blakesley	Shashank Rao
Fiona Bowen	Brenda Sieczkowski
Angelique Brebis	Chantel Sigman-Baker
Joanne Castillo	Autumrose Stubbs
Ruben Cerbera	Nathan Taylor
Elizabeth Emery	Sam Theriault
Steve Fernelius	Celeste T. Rosenlof
Bill Fisher	San Tran
Sam Forlenza	Rebekah Trawick
Elisabeth Frost	Presley Whetman
Casey Gause	Alexis Williams
Kaitlynn Hatzidakis	Caroline Wright
Peggie Hayes	Shima Yoshida
Cristi Herbert	Lauren Young
Josephine Hogan	Robert Langman
Jonathan Carlisle	Emily Li
Charly Kuecks	RJ Walker
Joseph Lindberg	Kelly Corbray
Anna Linner	Kathy Tran-Peters
Sandy Lui	Marc Hanson
Kendra Madsen	

Interested in Volunteering?

Come to one of our volunteer orientations and learn how you can get involved.

Call (801) 957-2192 or visit slcc.edu/cwc

Volunteer orientation dates:
1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 6-7 p.m.

Workshops

Resume and Cover Letters

2-part workshop

January 17 & 24 (Thurs), 6-8 p.m.

Whether this is your first time writing a resume or you already have one that needs tweaking, this workshop can help. And what's a resume without a cover letter that'll make you stand out? Come learn the purpose, structure and tools to craft a well-organized resume and cover letter.

Cost: Free. Registration is required.

Grant Writing

5-part workshop

February 1, 8, 15, 22 & March 1 (Fri), 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Do you need money for your project or nonprofit program but don't know where to start? Government and private funding organizations often have money to give and only require that you make a persuasive case. Join the SLCC Community Writing Center for an interactive workshop on the basics of grant writing.

Cost: \$100. Registration is required.

Scholarship and Application Essays

1-part workshop

February 21 (Thurs), 6-8 p.m.

A great personal essay can be what gets you that scholarship or gets you into your best college. Join us while we workshop personal essays. You will learn insider tricks and get tips and feedback on your own essay. This workshop is for teens (ages 13-18).

Cost: Free. Registration is required.



REGISTER FOR OUR WORKSHOPS AT SLCC.EDU/CWC/WORKSHOPS.ASPX OR BY PHONE AT 801-957-2192
ALL WORKSHOPS ARE LOCATED AT 210 EAST, 400 SOUTH, SUITE 8 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Writing for Change: Creative Nonfiction

2-part workshop

March 7 & 14 (Thurs), 6-8 p.m.

Creative nonfiction (memoirs, profiles, lyric essays, and more) has been used throughout history to shape cultural identities, open minds, encourage social action, and offer insider views into injustice and activism. Memoirs and other forms of creative nonfiction have the power to take readers inside your experiences to learn about and empathize with the histories, triumphs, struggles, and desires that shape the collective human experience via a personal, intimate lens. We'll learn about and try out a few forms of creative nonfiction to discover how the personal is political.

Cost: Free. Registration is required.

Slam Poetry

2-part workshop

March 20 & 27 (Wed), 6-8 p.m.

Join us as local poet RJ Walker leads a workshop on slam poetry. Learn how to compose poetry with its spoken performance in mind as well get tips on performing in public. RJ was the winner of the CWC's 2018 Ultra Iron Pen writing competition, leads poetry workshops around the valley, and has won competitive poetry slams around the country. This workshop will give you the tools to get more involved in Salt Lake's poetry scene.

Cost: \$20. Registration is required.

Personal Narratives

2-Part workshop

April 3 & 10 (Wed), 6-8 P.M.

Personal narratives are true stories from our lives that tell of experiences that have had a lasting impact on the way that we perceive and relate to the world around us. As a genre, personal narrative is free from the shackles of form or structural requirements, which allows writers to focus on expressing their experiences and reflecting on them within a single piece of writing. Join us for a fun, in-depth dive into writing freely about our lives!

Cost: \$20. Registration is required.

NaPoWriMo (National Poetry Writing Month)

4-part workshop

April 6, 13, 20, & 27 (Sat), 1-3 p.m.

April is National Poetry Month! Join the CWC for a workshop series that celebrates poetry in all its glory! We'll explore various genres of poetry, learn to compose poems, and practice revising and sharing our work. We also encourage you to submit to our 30 Poems in 30 Days contest—winners will have a chapbook of their original work published by the CWC.

Cost: \$40. Registration is required.

Advanced Creative Writing: Creating Realistic Characters

2-part workshop

April 30 & May 7 (Tues), 6-8 p.m.

Creative writing is hard. We're here to help. One of the most challenging aspects of any prose, fiction or non-fiction writing is bringing the characters to life on the page. We've all read or watched something where a character does something that doesn't make sense. We've all been frustrated by characters that exist to drive a plot rather than act in a believable manner. Join us as we work to discover what makes realistic characters and how we can create them within our own writing.

Cost: \$20. Registration is required.

Events

Volunteer Appreciation Night

Tuesday, March 5, 6 – 8 p.m.

We would like to thank, support and celebrate our volunteers for the amazing work you've done over the past year. We couldn't do it all without you! Come and join us for snacks, drinks, and good company.

Cost: Free for Volunteers of the CWC.

Sine Cera Reading and Book Launch

The City Library | 210 E 400 S, 4th Floor Conference Room

Thursday, April 18, 6 – 8 p.m.

We will be unveiling the 22nd edition of the DWS anthology *sine cera*, and we invite you to join us in celebration of the voices that make up our community and get a glimpse into the lives of others as they share their poems, stories, and reflections of daily and imagined life. During the reading DWS writers will be reading excerpts and poems from their own works to a live audience. After the reading we relocate to the Community Writing Center for refreshments and conversation.

Cost: Free. No Registration Required.

Visual Poetry Series

Location: Utah Museum of Contemporary Art
20 South West Temple

Self Portrait Poems

March 9 (Sat), 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Create a visual self-portrait with words.

Cost: Free. Registration not required.

Comic Strip Poems

March 16 (Sat), 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Create or adapt a poem into a comic strip.

Cost: Free. Registration not required.

Poetry Posters

March 23 (Sat), 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Use basic design and printing skills to create a poster of your favorite poem.

Cost: Free. Registration not required.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

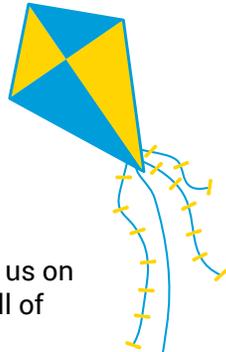


Facebook
@CommunityWritingCenter



Instagram
@SLCC_CWC

Join our online community by following us on social media. Don't miss out! We post all of our upcoming events or workshops.



Support the CWC!

Just go to slcc.edu/cwc, click "Volunteer or Donate" and follow the links to make an easy donation.

All donations are tax-deductible according to current tax laws.

Thank You

Writing Coaching

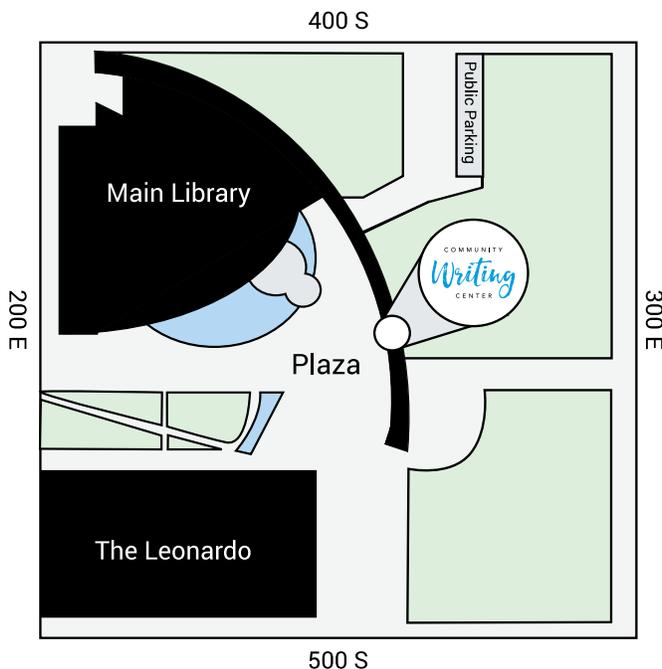
We offer free 30 minute one-on-one writing coaching sessions once per day. Sessions are open to anyone needing help with their writing.

Schedule your 30 minute writing coaching session today.

801-957-2192

Join a Writing Group

Visit slcc.edu/cwc/dws for more info.



The SLCC Community Writing Center

210 East 400 South, Suite 8
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
slcc.edu/cwc
801-957-2192

Hours

Monday – Thursday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday & Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

TRAX stops at the SLC Main Library;
UTA also offers several bus routes.



Find the CWC newsletter online at slcc.edu/cwc/upcomingevents.aspx