



What if writing were a homecoming? A return to ourselves. A point of clarity where we feel at home in our words.

The poet Naomi Sheehab Nye hopes that, through writing, her students “find a way to live, a way to be, a voice to use, where [they] feel at home in all of them.” As I work with CWC writers, this is my goal: to help people feel at home in their writing.

In practice, I think this means inviting writers to take ownership of their words—

empowering writers to compose their own thoughts about a topic rather than appeal to someone else’s ideas, especially an authority’s.

Writing this way is not about regurgitating information or putting commas in the right place; it is instead a process for testing out new and old ideas as we search for coherence with our thoughts; it is a series of intellectual risks on the journey home.

My process is often something like this: Step 1, I turn off my internal editor. Step 2, I begin a paragraph with “I [blank] because...” (Like, “I feel angry because...” or “I eat animals because...” or “I want that job because...”). Step 3, I notice the shape of my exposed thoughts on the page. It is here that I’ll see a broken chain of reasoning or a contradiction with my personal values.

All day we are told what to think: buy this, do that, exercise this way, that makes you fat,

this makes you happy. It’s overwhelming. Personally, writing helps me sift through this deluge of messages, so that I grow comfortable with my own ideas.

For example, when I wrote “I eat animals because,” I initially finished the sentence with “because everyone else does.” The sentence showed me an idea I was borrowing from others, something about myself I had outsourced. This clarity made space for a new way of thinking and writing about the topic. I stopped eating animals.

Thanks to my writing practice, I feel comfortable with myself as I speak, write, and act out a new paragraph: “I do not eat animals because...” And despite living in a culture dominated by carnivores, I feel at home in my words.

Warren Cook

Writing Assistant
Events Coordinator

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SLCC COMMUNITY WRITING CENTER
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SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84111
WWW.SLCC.EDU/CWC
801.957.2192

On Writing Science Fiction

by Zach Frederick

If you look up science fiction prompts online, you'll find a lot of oddly specific suggestions like "a man turns on the robot he invented" or "aliens land at the White House." The problem with these types of prompts is not that good science fiction could never arise from them, it's that these types of surface level prompts don't first address the purpose of the story.

The purpose of good fiction is to reflect something of the real world. This is as true of science fiction as it is of any other genre.

Science fiction is at its best when it uses fantastical and extraordinary elements to impart emotional (if not factual) truth upon its reader.

Estrangement is the literary term for how science fiction creates this effect. Literary estrangement makes the familiar unfamiliar, intentionally alienating the audience,

forcing them to think critically about a text rather than passively consuming it. The genre of science fiction is imbued with this effect by its very nature; good science fiction uses estrangement to convey emotion in a way that is more true than the truth.

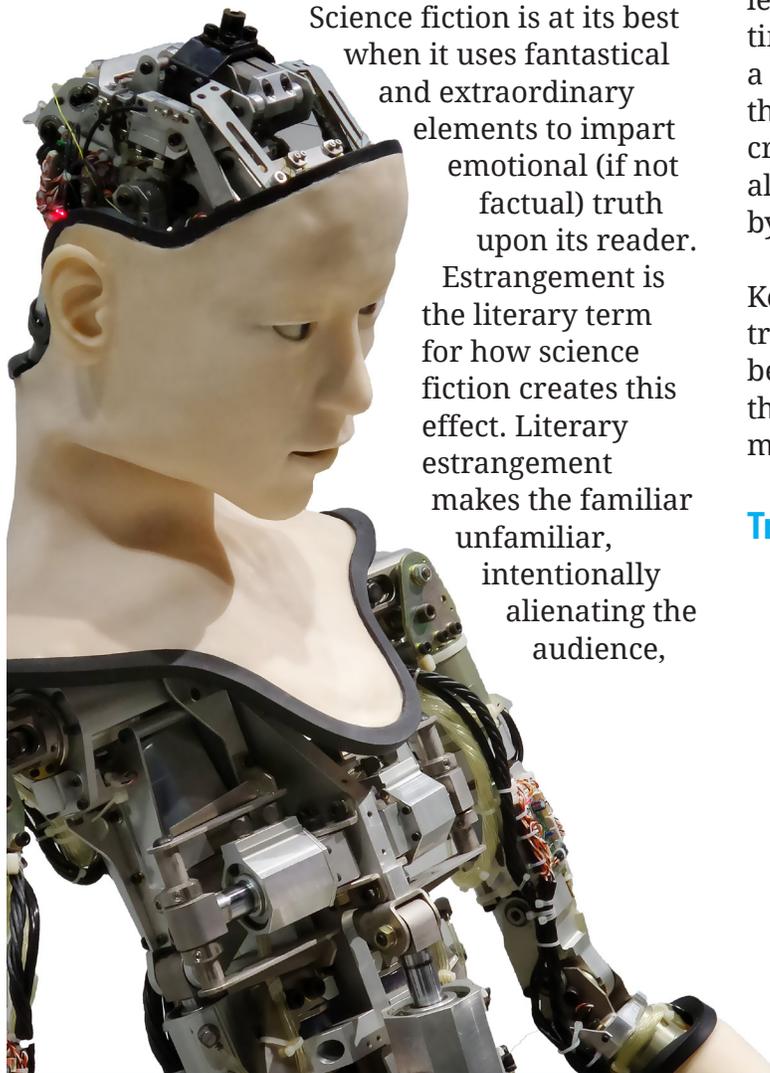
One example I often rely upon to demonstrate this is Joe Haldeman's *The Forever War*. Haldeman, a Vietnam veteran and graduate of the Iowa Writer's Workshop, uses relativistic time travel to portray the isolating effects of war on soldiers. His characters, engaged in an unwinnable war against an unknowable enemy, leap through Earth's future history as a result of time dilation. Each time they return, they find a home that is stranger and more alienating to them than before. This hyperbolized war story creates an emotional resonance with the reader, allowing them to feel the isolation experienced by Haldeman in Vietnam.

Keeping the idea of estrangement and emotional truth in mind, start with one of the big themes below, or find your own important theme, and think about how science fiction can help you make it more true than the truth.

Try These Writing Ideas:

- Take a societal trend and extrapolate its extreme version to show its effect on society.
- Portray a strained relationship against the backdrop of a science fictional setting.
- Take an existing story with meaningful thematic elements; how can science fiction enhance those themes?

Want to know more? Attend The Community Writing Center's Guide to Sci-Fi this July! Details about registration are on page 6.



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

210 E 400 S, Suite 8
Monday-Thursday, 10 am - 8 pm
Friday-Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm

SIXTH ANNUAL SOR JUANA PRIZE

Announcing Artes de México's Sixth Annual Sor Juana Prize for original poetry and short stories in Spanish.

This year the \$100 cash prizes will be awarded for two poems and two short stories written in Spanish by high school students and adults residing in Utah (8 prizes in total). The winners will be announced at the Utah Humanities Book Festival in Salt Lake City this fall.

The prizes are for an original poem or short story written by a student or adult whose primary language at home is Spanish (Category I), and another for an original poem or short story written by a student or adult who speaks Spanish as a second language (Category II). The winning poems and stories will be published on the website of Artes de México in Utah and in *El Semanal* magazine, and sent to media statewide.

See more information at www.slcc.edu/cwc/upcomingevents.aspx

SEXTO PREMIO SOR JUANA ANUAL

Anunciando el Sexto Premio Anual Sor Juana por poesía original y cuentos en español.

Este año el premio de \$100 será otorgado a dos poemas y dos prosas originales en español por estudiantes de escuela secundaria superior y por adultos en general que deseen participar en el concurso.

Los ganadores del premio serán anunciados durante el Festival del Libro de Utah Humanities en Salt Lake City en el otoño. Los premios son para un poema o novela corta original escrita por un estudiante o un adulto que el español sea su lengua materna (Categoría I), y un poema o novela corta escrita por un estudiante o adulto que el español sea su segunda lengua (Categoría II). Las obras ganadoras serán publicadas en nuestra página electrónica, la revista *El Semanal* y otros medios de comunicación en el estado.

Ver más información en www.slcc.edu/cwc/upcomingevents.aspx

DiverseCity Writing Series

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

Gay Writes

Community Writing Center | 210 E. 400 S.
2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m.

King's English

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

The Literary Action Center

Housing Authority | 3595 South Main Street
1st and 3rd Thursdays, 5-7:30 p.m.
1st and 3rd Fridays, 2-4 p.m.

Silver Pen

Community Writing Center | 210 E. 400 S.
1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 12-2 p.m.

Mount Olympus

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

Copper Quill

The County Library | Magna
2675 South 8950 West
1st and 3rd Thursdays, 12:30-2 p.m.

South Valley Wasatch Writers

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

West Side Stories

The County Library | Kearns
5350 South 4220 West
1st and 3rd Thursdays, 6:30-8 p.m.

Authors in Training

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

Join the Community Writing Center from June 21-24 at the Utah Arts Festival for workshops, open mics and the annual Wasatch IronPen!

THURSDAY, JUNE 21

Workshop: Hand Lettering

Thursday, 12:30 - 1:30 pm

Join us for an introduction to creative hand lettering. You'll create a personalized hand-lettered greeting card to send to a loved one or friend.

Graphic Arts Workshop: Making Comic Books

Thursday, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Comic book artist Paul Guinan and writer Anina Bennett will help you collaborate on a story drawn by Paul, or get started on creating your own comic book.

Kids Workshop: Pop-up Books

Thursday, 3:15 - 4:15 pm

Craft a story and make it spring to life in three dimensions with your very own pop-up book. Parents are encouraged to participate with their children.

Workshop: Food Writing

Thursday, 4:30 - 5:30 pm

Food can be as expressive as words. Join us for this workshop, with food tastings, to learn the art of writing about food!

Youth Open Mic

Thursday, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

If you're 18 or younger and have something to say, take the stage at our youth open mic! Share your art and inspiration! No need to sign up first.

FRIDAY, JUNE 22

Workshop: Matchbook Shrines

Friday, 12:30 - 1:30 pm

Is it a book? Is it a shrine? Is it a secret place to tuck away your favorite quote? You decide. Since its introduction at the 1855 Paris Expo the matchbox has found its own little place in design history. From Sweden to India, matchbox design has ranged from minimalist to ornate. In this workshop we'll find inspiration from Mexican matchbox art to artist books and explore our own tiny masterpieces. Guest Artist: Céline Downen

Workshop: Making Comic Books

Friday, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Comic book artist Paul Guinan and writer Anina Bennett will help you collaborate on a story drawn by Paul, or get started on creating your own comic book.

Workshop: Amulets of Hope

Friday, 3:15 - 4:15 pm

Reflect on your hopes and dreams by creating an amulet of hope, a cleverly folded book. Use the book and its message as part of goal-setting or creative activism.

IronPen Writing Workshop

Friday, 4:30 - 5:30 pm

This workshop will introduce you to the IronPen writing contest. Learn tips for writing competitively, and discuss elements of our three competition options: Fiction, Nonfiction and Poetry.

Wasatch IronPen Literary Marathon START!

Friday, 5:30 pm

Get to the CWC for submission guidelines and the prompt to start writing your 24-hour masterpiece! If you can't make it to the CWC, the prompt will be posted on Facebook (@CommunityWritingCenter) and Instagram (@slcc_cwc) at 5:30 pm.

Community Reading: DiverseCity Writing Series

Friday, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Join the community writers in the CWC's DiverseCity Writing Series as they share writing about what makes us all human.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23

Workshop: Creative Journaling

Saturday, 12:30 - 1:30 pm

Make a simple hand-bound book and use it to get started with creative journaling! Space is limited, so come early!

Workshop: Making Comic Books

Saturday, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Comic book artist Paul Guinan and writer Anina Bennett will help you collaborate on a story drawn by Paul, or get started on creating your own comic book.

Kids Workshop: Blackout Poetry

Saturday, 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Create your own poem and a work of art by cutting and erasing words from existing poems and song lyrics. Parents are encouraged to participate with their children.

Wasatch IronPen Literary Marathon ENDS!

Saturday, 5:30pm

All submissions are due by 5:30 pm on Saturday, June 24th. Participants can deliver paper copies to the Community Writing Center or submit online at <https://tinyurl.com/ydxjbyf8>

SUNDAY, JUNE 24

Wasatch IronPen Winners Reading / Open Mic

Sunday, 12:00 - 2:00 pm

Join us at the Big Mouth stage as we announce competition winners and celebrate everyone who participated in the Wasatch IronPen and Ultra IronPen competitions!

Workshop: Making Comic Books

Sunday, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Comic book artist Paul Guinan and writer Anina Bennett will help you collaborate on a story drawn by Paul, or get started on creating your own comic book.

Workshop: Interactive Fiction

Sunday, 4 - 5:30 pm

Learn the basics of Twine, a tool for creating interactive fiction. Create a an online experience that is something like “Choose-Your-Own-Adventure” meets video games. No coding experience necessary.

Open Mic

Sunday, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Calling all musicians, poets, spinner of tales, comedians, and lovers of the same. Join us at the Community Writing Center to share your words in any medium.

Shoutout to our Volunteers!

We couldn't do it without you!

Kelly Albrecht	Donovan Lynch
Belen Almada	Andrea Malouf
Meg Burke	Kat Moran
Lisa Cannon	Peter Muller
Joana Rose Castillo	Chelise Pack
Joanne Castillo	Holly Packard
Chris Chambers	Alison Palmer
Charissa Che	Rilee Pickle
Helen Droitsch	Jeannette Purdy
Elizabeth Emery	Jonathan Ramirez
Derek Eyre	Lauren Robbins
Steve Fernelius	Sara Rose
Bill Fisher	Christian Schultz
Sam Forlenza	Mike Scott
Chris Fraizer	Deanna Simonis
Stephanie Garahana	Autumrose Stubbs
Cheryl Goff	Nathan Taylor
Beverly Harrison	Celeste Tholen Rosenlof
Jerri A. Harwell	Ash Thompson
Achais Haycock	Donnae Tidwell
JoAnna Johannesen	Ashley Walton
Jim Kelley	Audrey Weigel
Jennifer Kumar	John Wilkes
Debbie Leasure	Alexis Williams
Joseph Lindberg	Douglas Woodall
Ariana Liques	Darla Woods
Cyndi Lloyd	Lara York
Diane Lockard	Lauren Young

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.

Publishing: What's It All About?

1-Part workshop, May 23 (Wed), 6 - 8 pm

Let's talk about publishing! This workshop will cover all the different ways to get published and discuss some pros and cons of each. Prepare to dive in to the world of publishing!

Cost: \$20. Registration is required.

Screenwriting

2-part workshop, June 6 & 13 (Wed), 6 - 8 pm

The first step to writing a screenplay is developing a compelling cinematic idea. Join the CWC and screenwriter Tami Anderson to explore the world of visual storytelling. Topics covered will include character development, screenplay format, and story structure. All levels welcome.

Cost: \$30. Registration is required.

Wild: Writing about Nature and the Environment

2-part workshop, June 9 & 16 (Sat), 1 - 3 pm

In this workshop, writers will be guided through what it takes to write for and about nature and the environment!

Cost: \$20. Registration is required.

Creative Writing Basics

4-part workshop, July 5, 12, 19, & 26 (Thu), 6-8 pm

Join the CWC in this workshop on the basics of creative writing. Come with a story in mind or a desire to learn. All levels welcome.

Cost: \$30. Registration required.

The Community Writing Center's Guide to Sci-Fi

3-part workshop, July 11, 18 & 25 (Wed), 6 - 8 pm

Join the CWC as we explore science fiction. How does it work? What makes it unique, and why is it becoming so popular? We'll take some time to explore sci-fi's history and examine what makes "good" sci-fi, as well as read some great short stories, before finally crafting our own sci-fi short story.

Cost: \$30. Registration is required.

Grant Writing

5-part workshop, August 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 (Fri), 10 - 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.

Pet Memoirs

2-part workshop, August 8 & 15 (Wed), 6 - 8 p.m.

Have you ever wanted to capture the story of your beloved pet in a story, a book, or a blog? Join the CWC to explore the world of pet memoir. Topics covered will include setting, chronology, tone, dialogue, images, and design. All levels welcome.

Cost: \$20. Registration is required.



12th Annual Iron Pen Marathon

24 Hour Writing Competition!

Contest begins Friday, June 22nd at 5:30 pm

Registration is now open for the 12th annual Wasatch IronPen Writing Marathon, in which artists of the written word face off in a 24-hour writing competition. Adult and Youth writers of all experience levels can participate in one of three genres (Fiction, Non-fiction or Poetry) or take on the IronPen Ultra and write in all three! Register by going to slcc.edu/cwc or calling 801-957-2192.

On Friday, June 22nd, 2018 at 5:30 pm, during the Utah Arts Festival, a visual writing prompt will be presented at the Community Writing Center and posted on the CWC's Facebook page. Writers have 24 hours to complete their works and submit them by Saturday, June 23 at 5:30 p.m.

Winners will be announced Sunday, June 24th at noon on the Utah Arts Festival Bigmouth Stage.

REGISTER FOR OUR WORKSHOPS AT SLCC.EDU/CWC/WORKSHOPS.ASPX OR BY PHONE AT 801-957-2192

Senior Health & Fitness Day

May 30, 1:30 - 4:30 pm

Join Salt Lake County Adult and Aging Services to explore the theme of “Never too late!” The event will connect seniors to activities, hobbies, and opportunities they might write off as no longer possible for them. The CWC will be tabling.

[Viridian Events Center, 8030 South 1825 West](#)

Pride Festival

June 2 - 3

The CWC will collect Pride Stories at the festival’s Interactive Zone. Look for the CWC’s blue bicycle writing station as we collect stories and record audio.

[Washington Square, 451 South State Street](#)

Downtown Farmer’s Market

July 21, August 4 & 25 from 8 am - 2 pm

The CWC will be at three of the Downtown Farmer’s Markets this summer. Stop by and say hello!

[Pioneer Park, 350 West 300 South](#)

Damn These Heels Film Festival

July 20 - 27

The CWC will be at the Damn These Heels Film Festival. Volunteer to be a part of the longest running LGBTQ+ film festival in the Mountain West.

[Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center, 138 West 300 South](#)

Pacific Island Heritage Month Kickoff

July 28, 5 - 10 pm

Join us in celebrating Pacific Island Heritage month.

[Sorenson Unity Center, 1383 South 900 West](#)

Groove in the Grove

August 7, 6 - 9 pm

Join the CWC for Groove in the Grove 2018. Entertainment, food, prizes, and fun.

[SLC Police Department, 1040 West 700 South](#)

FREE Fest! - A Youth Workshop Series

This summer we are hosting a series of FREE workshops for young adults (ages 15-19) who are out of school or just in need of some fun, crafty things to do over the summer. We encourage our participants to come to any or all of our workshops – whatever works for you!

Workshops run July 25 - 28, 1 - 3 pm, here at the CWC.

Cost: Free. No registration is required.

XYZine: Wednesday, July 25, 1-3 p.m.

Join us on our first day to make a zine. Zines, if you’re wondering, are handmade, self-published, self-distributed publications. They’re gritty, a little punk, and a lot of fun. We’ll look at what goes into making them and help you put your own together.

Book-Making: Thursday, July 26, 1-3 p.m.

Come learn some basic book-binding skills and create a one-of-a-kind book that’ll last the ages – no matter the use. We’ll teach you how to put your own book together and give you some tips on how to start filling it out while you’re here.

EnTwined: Friday, July 27, 1-3 p.m.

“Twine” is, basically, interactive fiction. The software weaves PC/internet age tech and storytelling together for a virtual experience that is something like “Choose-Your-Own-Adventure” meets video games. No coding experience necessary.

Poetry?: Saturday, July 28, 1-3 p.m.

On this day, we will be exploring all the unusual and unconventional ways to write a poem. We will be creating our own “blackout” poems, dip our toes into the world of surrealism with Dada poetry, and more. Come make a mess of poetry and all things poetic!





Support the CWC!

Just go to slcc.edu/cwc click “How You Can Help” and follow the links to make an easy donation.

EVERYONE CAN WRITE!

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

HERE'S WHY...

There's a good chance that you're reading this newsletter because you are interested in writing. **Whether you like to write or are intimidated by it, you are still curious.** You read, listen, observe, and you are interested in the world around you. Written words may have been important in your life from an early age and still are.

Every year since 2001, the SLCC Community Writing Center has assisted thousands of writers like you at all stages in the writing process. We've partnered with hundreds of nonprofits and offered rich experiences through workshops and writing groups. **We at the CWC continually strive to keep our programs free or low-cost.** Though the Salt Lake Community College is the major funder of CWC programs, the CWC is responsible for raising external funds for a portion of its operating and program costs.

If you value writing and the programs we offer, please make a donation. We hope that you will consider supporting the CWC in this way. You can contribute online at slcc.edu/cwc/how-you-can-help/ or by mailing a donation to SLCC Community Writing Center, 210 East 400 South, Suite 8 Salt Lake City, UT 84111. Your contribution will help foster Salt Lake City's growing community of writers.



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