

Techniques/Activities

Each participant will BRING with them, to be read aloud to the group and critiqued;

The opening half-page of their work in progress

Each participant will SUBMIT IN ADVANCE (by email) two short sections from the same work in progress:

– a complete scene (5-8 pages) *

– an excerpt in which a main character is introduced (2-5 pages) **

Before the workshop, participants will receive novel excerpts to read in advance. During the workshop, the submissions will be critiqued in a constructive, supportive atmosphere in small group sessions. Participants will have an opportunity to revise and then read aloud their revised work.

Workshop schedule:

Friday (3/19) – 2:00-6:00

2:00 Welcome, introductions

2:15 First things firsts: read aloud and critique the first half-page of each work in progress

4:00 Summary: How to keep them reading

4:30 Discussion: Selling a novel in today's market

5:00 Informal cocktail party and wrap up

6:00 Day 1 ends

Saturday (3/20) – 8:00-5:00

8:00 Continental breakfast

8:30 Small group sessions: groups work with Ms. Isleib to critique their character introductions and with Ms. Ephron to critique their entire opening scenes

12:30 Catered lunch

1:30 Time to revise – participants work to revise any of the work that was critiqued; participants who want to may meet one on one with an instructor to discuss any issues pertinent to their own work

3:00 Hone your novel's elevator pitch: large group round robin:

4:00 Readings with wine (open to public): Participants read up to 2 pages of revised work.

5:00 Workshop ends

Goals and Objectives

Participants will:

- Understand how elements of writing such as point of view, characterization, dialogue, internal dialogue, description, setting, tension, conflict, and so on can be enhanced
- Identify ways to revise their work in progress to keep readers engaged both by the story and by interesting, complex characters.
- Revise a segment of a novel to make it a more compelling read
- Develop a strong "elevator pitch"
- Develop a plan of action for improving the manuscript

Student's materials and supplies

Each participant will BRING with them to the workshop:

– The first half-page of their work in progress (during the opening session, each person will read this aloud, and have it critiqued by the group)

And SUBMIT IN ADVANCE two short sections from the same work in progress:

– a complete scene (5-8 pages) *

– an excerpt in which a main character is introduced (2-5 pages) **

To Do List For Workshop Participants:

Please email your two writing samples by March 9, to Hallie@Hallieephron.com. You will be assigned a critique group and your work will be forwarded to the others in their critique group.

You should submit the following:

- a complete scene (5-8 pages)*
- an excerpt in which a main character is introduced (2-5 pages)**

These writing samples should be:

- FORMAT: save as .doc or .rtf file
- DOUBLE-SPACE (please, not space-and-a-half or single spaced)
- FONT something like 12 point Times New Roman or 10 point Courier
- 1" MARGINS all around NUMBER the pages
- HEADER on top of each page with your name and the writing sample title (e.g.: "Genevieve Miller – Character introduction" and "Genevieve Miller – Complete Opening Scene")
- PAGE NUMBERS on each page
- FILE NAME should be a combination of your name and the file contents (e.g. MillerCharacter.doc and MillerScene.doc)

If you have any trouble with any of this formatting, email Hallie for help.

A week before the workshop, you will be emailed the manuscripts from the others in your group along with instructions for reading and critiquing.

And BE SURE TO BRING WITH YOU TO CLASS: The opening page of your novel. You will read some of it aloud to the group as a first activity.

Since some of the class activity will involve revising what you've written, those of you who like to write on a computer might want to bring your laptop with you.

* GUIDELINES for choosing a complete scene to workshop:

Novels are composed of scenes, and a complete scene is comprised of action that takes place in A SINGLE TIME AND PLACE with a set of characters. Pick a scene that is 5 to 8 pages long. It can come from anywhere in the novel, but pick one that requires a minimum of explanation for other participants to understand what's going on. You can definitely pick your novel's opening scene, but be aware that you will be reading aloud the opening half-page of it and getting that part critiqued on Friday.

** GUIDELINES for picking a character introduction to workshop

This should be the very first time a main character—many of you will want to make it your protagonist—appears in your novel.

But this excerpt should NOT include your novel's opening half-page or the complete scene you submit for critique (there's no point to getting the same words critiqued twice!)