



Loft Residency FAQs

Who are Loft residency students?

The Loft has proudly offered many residencies. Site examples include the Mayo Clinic, the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation (in partnership with Veterans in the Arts), St. Paul Academy, and the list goes on. Residency Teaching Artists lead workshops on a diverse range of creative writing topics to all ages of learners—from young adults to senior citizens.

Are Loft classes for beginning, intermediate, or advanced writers?

All! Educational offerings and residencies can be tailored to writers at any level of development.

What are the responsibilities of the host organization or school when obtaining Loft programming?

In order to achieve the goal of providing a safe and respectful space for participants to explore the art of creative writing, we ask that you:

- Provide an appropriate space that is conducive to creative writing. This includes ample writing space, a whiteboard for the teaching artist, adequate lighting, and the facilitation of a calm and organized classroom.
- Encourage students to respect class dynamics, which means encourage participating students to come to class on time, commit to being in class for the duration of the program, and respectfully engage in all class activities. Writing workshops thrive on consistent student engagement.
- Register participants.
- The retaining organization feels confident that they have student interest, and those students will consistently attend class for the duration of the creative writing program.
- The retaining organization is willing and able to promote the opportunity among its constituency.
- The retaining organization will help the Loft evaluate the program and ensure best practices, which include discussing the class content and learning objectives with the teaching artist and can include planning meetings with the teaching artist and Loft staff.



How much do residencies cost?

Most residencies cost \$125 per contract hour. Rates can vary depending on the program duration and needs of the participating organization, and long-term residencies can be discounted.

Wordplay Author Visits are \$1000 per visit. We do offer subsidies for schools with high free and reduced lunch rates.

Contact Melissa Wray at mwray@loft.org for more information about any of our residency opportunities.

What is your payment policy?

Once a program is confirmed, the Loft will send an agreement to both the organization and the teaching artist. The agreement will outline the payment process and terms for the teaching artist and the organization, including all key deadlines.

What is your cancellation policy?

Programs can be cancelled up to two weeks before the program start date. If cancellation occurs within two weeks of the program start date, the school or organization will be charged the full program fee.

What about emergency cancellations?

In the case of an emergency cancellation or a cancellation due to weather, the Loft will work with the partnering school or organization to reschedule the program.

Can the Loft be a funding partner?

At this time, the Loft has made a commitment to a number of thriving community partnerships, and unfortunately we are not able to take on any more.

What kinds of classes do you offer?

Below is a list of sample residency classes. The Loft's teaching artists are accomplished and award-winning professional writers, and we can work with you to develop custom curriculums based on the following class descriptions and the needs of the retaining school or organization's constituency, learning objectives, and class goals.



CLASS SAMPLES

ELEMENTS OF POETRY

Poetry

Adult or Youth

This class focuses on fundamentals of poetry including language, form, and imagery. Students will write from poetry prompts and read select poems closely in order to deepen their knowledge of poetic form, and leave with an increased awareness of the art of poetry.

ELEMENTS OF FICTION—NOVEL WRITING

Fiction

Adult or Youth

Students will explore the art of the novel and learn literary techniques such as great beginnings, timing climaxes, weaving in character desires, structure, obstacles, and the role of secondary characters, which will increase students' awareness of the wealth and range of stylistic choices available to novel writers. Writing prompts will deepen students' engagement with the craft elements essential to writing the novel.

ELEMENTS OF FICTION—SHORT STORY WRITING

Fiction

Adult or Youth

Students will explore the craft of fiction and learn literary techniques such as dialogue, voice, scene, and structure, which will increase their awareness of the wealth and range of stylistic choices available to fiction writers.

ELEMENTS OF CREATIVE NONFICTION

Creative Nonfiction

Adult or Youth

Students will learn techniques for writing memoir, essay, literary criticism, and opinion pieces. This class focuses on strengthening the writers' authentic voice.

JUMPSTARTING CREATIVITY

(Mixed genre sample class)

Adult or Youth

Every story germinates from the seed of an idea. Generating ideas and growing them into a compelling piece of fiction can be tricky, particularly in the beginning stages. In this class, students will learn creative exercises, brainstorming techniques, and writing habits that



inspire confidence to explore their ideas and free their imagination.

TAMING THE MANUSCRIPT: EDITING YOUR FICTION

Fiction

Adult or Youth

Through exercises and explorations of successful writers' revision strategies, students will learn how to revisit their manuscript with confidence, not fear. Students will also receive valuable feedback on a portion of their revised draft from their peers and the teaching artist.

CREATIVE NONFICTION BASICS

Creative Nonfiction

Adult or Youth

This class is for students who want to tell the story of their life but don't know where to start. The teaching artist will discuss the unique joys and challenges of developing a narrative from real-life experiences. Students will learn how to mine for material, find an appropriate voice, craft a character of oneself, and structure a well-paced plot through prompts and free writes. This class will put students on the path to creating a compelling memoir.

BLOGGING YOUR PASSION

Creative Nonfiction / New Media

Adult or Youth

Blogging is a great way to share one's passion (whether cooking, gardening, or robotics) with the world and connect with others. Through dissecting what makes a blog successful -- from online-specific writing techniques to employing the power of marketing and social media -- students will learn valuable strategies for developing an effective platform for writing about what they love.

THE ART OF THE PERSONAL ESSAY

Creative Nonfiction

Adult or Youth

Appearing everywhere from op-eds to anthologies and magazines, the personal essay is enjoying a renaissance due to its ability to convey intimate experiences that illuminate the human condition. This class will use a combination of in-class writing exercises and



discussions of examples from major publications. Students will learn to harness the power of their own life stories to create essays that will inspire an audience.

WRITING CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE

Children's Literature and Young Adult Literature
Adult or Youth

In this class, students will learn how to write compelling stories and novels aimed at children and young adults. Whether writing picture books, animal stories, sci-fi, fantasy, or realism aimed at young readers, this class will cover craft techniques for strengthening and shaping children's and YA narratives. Topics covered will include plot, character, dialogue, point of view, and what young readers want in fiction.

BUILDING WORLDS AND CRAFTING CHARACTERS

Fiction
Youth or Adult

This class is all about ways authors create fictional people and places that feel so real. From imagery to dialogue to point-of-view, students will get to play around with narrative strategies to fashion their own reality and fill it with a cast of characters. With in-class time to write and share work with peers, students will come away from each session having made progress towards their very own manuscript!

MYTHS, FAIRYTALES AND IMAGINATION

Fiction
Youth

People have used myths and fairytales throughout history to tell important stories. Now is the time for students to write their own! We'll look at famous tales both old and new to see what drives their plots and heroes. Students will get to create their own hero and set her off to face challenges that only they can imagine.

WRITE, DRAW, SHARE!

Fiction / Poetry
Youth

Whether students want to tell a silly story, write a poem that rhymes (or doesn't!), or dream up wild adventures for heroes and heroines, this is their time to shine. In this class,



students will get to write and illustrate their own story or collection of poems. Then they will put it all together and have their very own book to share with peers, family and friends.

COLLEGE PREPARATORY ESSAY WRITING

Nonfiction

Youth

This class is designed for the high school junior or senior getting ready to apply to colleges. Students will learn how to craft the most compelling essay describing who they are and wow admissions committees with their enthusiasm, style, and perfect prose.

CLASS SUGGESTIONS HUMAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS AND HOSPITALS

MAKING MEANING THROUGH MEMOIR

Creative Nonfiction

Adult & Caregivers

This class will equip students with the foundational tools of memoir writing through prompts and free writes. Students will learn how to mine for material, find an appropriate voice, craft a character out of oneself and structure a well-paced plot, all while discovering the healing power of making meaning out of even the darkest of experiences.

FINDING POETRY IN THE PERSONAL

Poetry

Adult and Caregivers

Some of the best material for poems comes from what is the most personal. Through writing exercises and lessons on the core elements of the craft, students will learn how poetry can serve as a freeing form of self-expression and an effective way to process the intimate aspects of their narrative. In this class, the teaching artist will discuss the art and craft of poetry while addressing difficult topics, such as loss and illness, with compassion.

THE TOUGH STUFF: KIDS WRITING THEIR REAL LIFE STORIES

Youth

In this class, youth will gain strategies for examining their emotions, memories, and experiences and expressing themselves through fiction and poetry. Through reading and writing exercises within a fun and supportive environment, youth will have the opportunity



to explore their thoughts and feelings, gain confidence, and learn how to use creativity as a tool for understanding the world around them.