

*To All Organizational Directors,*

*I would love to come to your association to talk to students about the writing process and conduct a writing workshop if time permits. I am available to visit with any school, library or organization within a 30 mile radius from Mahwah, NJ without any additional mileage cost to you. My experience mostly has been in author talks and creative writing workshops at schools, libraries and with scouting programs. Please see descriptions below of the presentations that I offer. If you have something different in mind, do not hesitate to contact me and we can discuss your expectations. You may e-mail me at [leighanne@leighannekidwell.com](mailto:leighanne@leighannekidwell.com) for more information and available times. I look forward to meeting you and your students.*

*Thank you.*

### **Schools:**

#### **Elementary - Grades 2-5**

##### ***Presentation One: "Life Of An Author"***

How I became a published author including the day to day grind of writing. This is basic information and usually turns into a question and answer session.

##### ***Presentation Two: "How to develop your ideas into stories"***

This is a discussion on developing everyday ideas into stories. If space and time permits, students will be allowed to create the beginnings of a story.

##### ***Presentation Three: "Building Believable Characters"***

Class conducts a provided character interview with another classmate. They learn what to include and what not to about each character in their stories and how to create relationships with other characters.

#### **Middle School - Grades 6-8**

##### ***Presentation Four: "How to use your life and research to bring a story to life"***

This is a presentation on developing actual life events into stories. Using research to make it believable and to provide help where it is needed. This works well with library settings and with smaller groups.

##### ***Presentation Five: "Round Table Event"***

This is a group discussion of one of my books which requires reading prior to event. A "help sheet" with questions can be sent beforehand or one will be provided for class.

##### ***Presentation Six: "Get Your Juices Flowing"***

Story starters and prompts will be provided and the students are allowed to free write. Share time is offered after writing and critique session.

##### ***Presentation Seven: "Details and Descriptions"***

They will learn how to be more creative with details of a story and how to find the write words to use to describe scenes and situations.

##### ***Presentation Eight: "Dialogue Do's and Don'ts"***

The students will receive different situations to build a dialogue between characters. They will learn the important things you should and shouldn't do with conversations.

## High School - Grades 9-12

### ***Presentation Nine: "How to get your Story Published"***

The process of publishing and everything necessary to get published in today's world including a present contest and publishers list.

### ***Presentation Ten: "How to Use Your Life to Write the Next Best Seller"***

Students write about an actual event that took place in their life and modify it enough to call it "fiction". Works well with small groups and longer sessions. If time permits, I will work with the individuals.

Libraries, scouting programs and other organizations:

Depending on the time frame I can do any of the above presentations or a creative writing workshop with 2 to 8 sessions including up to any of the following:

Session One - **STORY LINES**: How and where to look for storylines, terminology of the writing industry and tools to become good at the craft.

Session Two - **DEVELOPING YOUR STORY**: Character interviews, plot, setting, and time frame.

Session Three - **RESEARCH AND EDITING**: Using the internet, library and books to help get the right information, reworking the writing and critique techniques.

Session Four - **PUBLISHING**: After the editing is complete and polished, what does a young writer need to do to get noticed? We will discuss avenues a young writer may take to get work in print.

Time Frame for each creative writing session is 90 minutes

### Other one day presentations:

1. **Making a writing journal** - We will design and decorate our own writing journal. Discussion will cover learning how to journal every day thoughts and activities and how to use them to find stories. A three ring notebook with three/four dividers will be needed. I will provide everything else. This session is great for younger students.
2. **Developing your story** - Building characters, plot, setting and timeframe for a story. Writing prompts will be provided or they may choose something they already have been working on or think of in class.
3. **Creating Characters** - how to make the most memorable characters and why it is so important to know them inside and out. Pictures are provided to help build up new characters.

4. **Dialogue** - Working a dialogue between characters. The storyline and characters will be provided.

5. **Point of view** - Discussion covers the different point of views a story can be told in.

The group is given the same scenario for a story theme and each table writes his/her story in different point of views.

6. **Turning non-fiction into fiction** - By using the local paper we will learn how to take a story that was told in nonfiction and turn it into our own new fictional story.

7. **Poetry** - Discovering different types of poems and the steps to writing one of choice.

8. **Details and Descriptions** - How to work details and description into your story.

9. **Research Game** - Teams will work together to see how much you know without research and then compare this to how much you learn with research. This game will need access to computers.

10. **Editing** - Critique techniques and how to use them in your every day work and creative writing.

11. **Publishing** -Discussion on avenues a young writer needs to take to get their work noticed. Rules to submitting and who has the best contest. Computers can be used for this.

I have also conducted workshops for the more advance writer which included more editing, publishing and how to become better at writing. See my events page for details on what I have done in the past. Maybe one of these will fit your situation.

For price list please contact me.

I look forward to meeting you and working with your students to better their writing skills and craft their passion.

Leigh Anne Kidwell

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