



Mark Binder's Transmit Joy Writing Workshop



Student Handout for Fiction

STARTING POINT—Who is your Audience/Readers/Listeners?

TYPE OF WORK – Fiction

RESEARCH – Do you need to do research before starting?

UNLOCKING CREATIVITY/FLOW

- Just Begin!
- Don't stop or censor yourself. (You can always fix or delete later)
- Nothing is stupid/dumb/bad to begin with – You can AND WILL change and edit later
- Use "Yes, And..." instead of "No or But..."
- Keep adding details
 - o Characters (people, animals, machines, etc)
 - o Setting (Place, Time, Weather)
 - o Action: What happens? Why?
 - o Senses (sights, smells, touch, tastes, sounds)
 - o Styles, moods and flourishes -- play with mood and language
 - o Dialog: between characters, internal monologue
 - o Complications to Action - Problems and Challenges
 - o Resolutions and Conclusions

SHAPING THE NARRATIVE

- Begin reincorporating (bringing elements back in) as soon as you like.
- Continue adding details, continue reincorporating
- Write LONG and cut later.
- Stop when everything is reincorporated!

DRAFTS and COMPLETION

- Save Your Work! (Early and Often)
- When all important elements have been reincorporated, piece is "done"
- Print out piece
- Read Aloud
- Make notes (Scribbledraft)

REVISION and REWRITING

- Rework on paper and then into computer.
- Repeat Reading/Scribble/Revision
- Ask someone else to read it. Questions: What works? What doesn't make sense?
- Repeat until done!
- Declare it complete! Turn it in. Take a break and then begin your next project

NOTES on FEEDBACK

- Listen to your teachers! Try what they suggest.