

Writing & Workshop Recap

2-26-85

People in attendance:

Cynthia (leader)

Vera

Guillermo

Julienne Margo Shirley

John and Terry

This workshop followed a workshop done earlier by John and Terry. I listened to the tapes of the workshop but otherwise was not in attendance. I used the information from the tape and added my ideas, structure and personal experiences about writing.

The following is a structuring of what came from the writing workshop:

1. Kinds of Writing: (or Purpose of Writing)

writing language is the preservation of thoughts
writing is a form of communication and sharing of thought
academic writing - publication of one's position
recreational writing - one enjoys flow of thoughts and the expectation of ideas yet to be revealed also, stream of consciousness- journals and diaries writing that is often free from critique and evaluation
knowledge of appropriate writing form (audience specific)

2. Steps to Writing:

save the "pearl"
make notes - record ideas
"tools"
extensive vocabulary - growth exercises
ideas, experiences and background reading
mechanics (grammar, punctuation, structure, etc.)
models, use of literature as a written model of writing -talking to writing;
brainstorming ideas with others, pattern building orally with clarification of thought (response), . awareness of talking to different issues and in different roles,
oral skills development-including grammar and mechanics, with awareness of transfer to writing- oral language organization of thought
pre-writing -making lists or outlines and categorizing and organizing thoughts-
prepare draft and share and get feedback, corrections and changes
"read-around", informal evaluation and sharing with peers,
advisors and friends

3. Commitment to Writing:

writing holds one accountable -writing widens one's audience
writing may create authority -writing preserves sense of success -writing meets goals and objectives

writing becomes public
writing always has purpose -writing must preserve "the pearl" -the writer becomes an actor- a doer

4. Standards of Writing:

academic writing can be clear and simple
writing should be analytical, intellectual with ideas clearly explained and well described
breadth of exposure requires common standards
writing requires: clarity of relationship between points,
highlight of important points and supportive----
publishing requires specific standards and form

5. What Encourages Writing?

success-extrinsic positive evaluation or self satisfaction -comfort
communication - goal and audience
reduce gap between personal writing and academic writing by making formal writing more honest and direct
generating your very "pearl" and watching it take shape -talking into tape recorder and writing from talk

6. Ways of Maintaining Meaning:

referring to main point (or title)
writing to audience
write informal letter to someone about an idea
continually check direction and focusing on points and the relationships between those points and--- for constructive criticism

There were some questions left unanswered.

For example:

- How can one be comfortable enough to be prolific?
- Does writing flatten expression?
- Can "tools", early training or lack of these become exhibitors?

Write on!

