

Science Writing Workshop: How to tell a story, How to conduct an interview



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List of Materials

Science Writing Workshop application

Reading materials provided prior to the workshop - #1 and #2 serve as examples of the type of assignments that could be given.

1. “Janglin Chen’s return to Taiwan brings display vision to fruition”, Prachi Patel, *MRS Bulletin*; Beyond the Lab, Nov. 2011 v 36, p 862-863
<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=8438835&fileId=S0883769411002983>
2. Following are two columns where writers explain the writing tool of “Show, Don’t Tell” – which we’re actually changing to “Show, Then Tell”. In terms of the quality of writing, for me, one of these trumps the other. See what you think.
 - a. *Show, Don’t Tell* by Erin, <http://www.dailywritingtips.com/show-dont-tell/>
 - b. *Rusty’s Collar*, Pat Pattison, <http://www.patpattison.com/rustyscollar/>
3. You might ask, “First a link about songwriting, now about nature writing - what’s up? When are we going to talk about science writing?”
 - a. “The Greatest Nature Essay *Ever*”, Brian Doyle, *Orion*, Nov/Dec 2008, www.orionmagazine.org/index.php/articles/article/3649/
4. The film *Gravity*, starring Sandra Bullock. If you get a chance, watch the film before the Writing Workshop—we’ll be making some references to it in regards to “story telling”. It is *not* necessary to see the film for the discussion; just a suggestion. Note: We’ll make references to the film in terms of storytelling, not in terms of scientific accuracy!
5. Provide background information about the invited guest scientist for everyone to be familiar with their work, research, writings and education.

Projector, screen, laptop computer and internet access, if planning to show the short film during workshop

How to tell a Story

1. Key Elements of Storytelling
 - a. Plot chart for writing a screenplay; example (by Syd Field): http://scripteach.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/Syds_Diagram.jpg
 - b. Knowledge of the recommended film assignment given prior to the workshop
 - c. Brief cartoon film; example: *Luxor Jr.*, by Pixar
http://www.pixar.com/short_films/Theatrical-Shorts/Luxo-Jr.
 - d. Copies of a 10-minute play; example: “Knots,” by Lisa Soland, *The Best Ten-Minute Plays; 3 or More Actors*, Smith and Kraus Publishers (2006), edited by D.L. Lepidus

- e. Example of a science-related feature article; example: “Janglin Chen’s return to Taiwan brings display vision to fruition,” Prachi Patel, *MRS Bulletin*; Beyond the Lab, Nov. 2011 v 36, p. 862-863 (given as a reading assignment prior to the Workshop)
2. Critique of Writing Samples – Suggest selecting a minimum of three articles submitted by participants prior to the workshop

How to Conduct an Interview: The Art of Interviewing

1. PowerPoint slides & talking point notes

Opportunities for Science Writing

1. PowerPoint slides & talking point notes

Post-Workshop Assignment – instructions

Science Writing Workshop Evaluation form



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