

# BOOKENDS WRITING ACADEMY

## Writing Bootcamp 8-Week Manuscript Development Course

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Course website: <https://bookendswriting.thinkific.com/courses/>

Weekly meeting scheduling: <https://calendly.com/jwpnfld/>

### Course description

This online course explores practical considerations for manuscript development and book publishing. The course takes a formal approach to text and is primarily concerned with structural and generic conventions (i.e. narrative structure and literary form) relevant to fiction and nonfiction writing. It is a one-on-one course: participants will interact with the instructor through weekly consultations toward developing a working manuscript for a book project.

### Course outcomes

As a self-directed and individualized course, outcomes for participants will vary depending on individual goals and may include:

- Refinement of working manuscript for publishing
- Development of working manuscript
- Development of manuscript skeleton
- Learning writing techniques and practices of writing craft
- Your self-directed learning outcomes

### Approach to teaching and learning

The course is designed as a series of weekly lessons and with specific course content. It is, at the same time, highly individualized depending on the writing goals of participants. This means that the course relies on participants establishing clear goals and taking a self-directed approach. All course content is supplemented and oriented toward weekly feedback and one-on-one consultations.

*A word on feedback and consultations:* Course participants are strongly encouraged to submit writing on a regular basis throughout the course, either as part of course activities or as sections/chapters of your manuscript. Your submitted work and your writing goals will condition the kinds of feedback and supplemental resources the instructor will provide. This course, therefore, will be individually tailored to each writer's project. The instructor will strive to provide feedback that is specific, manageable, constructive, and timely.



## Course communications and learning management System (LMS)

Course communications will normally take place via email, through the course website, and with online video chat programs (Skype). The [course LMS](#) is housed in the education-oriented Thinkific website. To participate in the course you will have to create a free account with Thinkific. While the course instructor may be able to help resolve some technical issues and difficulties with the LMS, participants should make every effort to solve any issues independently. As a highly flexible online course, the instructor and participants will seek any necessary workarounds and adaptations.

## Weekly one-on-one consultations

It is helpful if you can set up a regular weekly slot for Skype meetings that works with your schedule. This will become your weekly coaching call time for every week (e.g., Wednesdays at noon). If you need to reschedule a meeting, please do so at least 24 hours before the scheduled call. Click [this link](#) to visit the online Calendly application for meeting scheduling. If the available days/times are not suitable for your schedule, the course instructor will make every effort to accommodate and set up meetings as appropriate.

## Course outline

\*\*\*There may be some modifications to the course outline. Lessons and materials in the LMS will be available at the beginning of each week.\*\*\*

### Week 1 – Establishing goals and expectations

- Welcome and introduction to the course
- Knowing the purpose of your book
- Knowing your reader
- Worksheet: Goals and expectations
- Resource: Top 6 books on writing
- Consultation and feedback

### Week 2 – Prewriting and outlining

- Keeping a regular practice of writing
- Outlining your manuscript
- Background research
- Worksheet: Create your outline
- Resource: 6 tools to help you write your book and stay organized
- Consultation and feedback

### Week 3 – Form and content

- Narrative technique
  - Sentence level / paragraph level
  - Narrative framing technique
  - Storytelling and narrative technique
- Worksheet: On sentences and storytelling
- Resource: Sentenced to death! An editor's take on sentences
- Consultation and feedback



#### **Week 4 – Making meaning: Scenes, acts, and controlling idea**

- Making meaning and reader response theory
- Movements, turns, scenes, and acts
- Continuity and controlling idea
- Worksheet: Readers' expectations
- Resource: A primer on conventions
- Consultation and feedback

#### **Week 5 – Dealing with overwhelm**

- Self-critique / self-reflection / self-editing
- Going back to square one
- Worksheet: Self-care & self-reflection
- Resource: 4 tricks to help you focus during the writing process
- Consultation and feedback

#### **Week 6 – Intensive writing week**

- Multiple (3, 4, or 5) submissions
- Motivation to write
- Worksheet: Daily sprints challenge
- Resource: Motivation and daily habits of writers
- Consultation and feedback

#### **Week 7 – Manuscript/book preparation**

- Working with an editor
- 3 types of editing
- Formatting your manuscript into a book
- Resource: Formatting checklist + where to find editors
- Consultation and feedback

#### **Week 8 – Next Steps in Self-Publishing**

- Establishing next steps
- Self-publishing crash course
- Resource: Self-publishing checklist
- Course evaluation & self-evaluation
- Consultation and feedback

