

2019-20 Umbrella Project #1: The Writer's Bible

In addition to your nine-week contracts and other curricular components, you are required to complete an umbrella project. For fourth year students, this is the development of *The Writer's Bible*, a written compilation containing a multitude of writing prompts and responses that encourage reflection, analysis and inspiration in relation to the development and progression of your own writing.

There will be four sections to your portfolio: 1.)Inspiration 2. Big Ideas 3.)Reflection/Analysis and 4.)Reverence. For each section, you are responsible for a series of writing assignments, which range from creating FE's to analyzing your process as a writer. Please see below for specific requirements of each section of the book.

Section 1: Inspiration

The first two sections of The Writer's Bible will aid you in cultivating and focusing your ideas for writing prompts and projects. Please make sure to write down these ideas in a progression over the course of many weeks, as opposed to thinking up all ideas in one sit-down session.

This first section must include:

An explanation of 10 writing workshop/FE ideas that are thought-provoking, unusually intriguing and/or incredibly unique. Your explanation for each idea should be a short paragraph. You must also provide 2 of your own responses to 2 of the FE's, along with 1 response from a classmate. (3 responses total)

Section 2: Big Ideas

You will develop ideas for 10 stories & 10 poems – Story ideas should be explained in about a paragraph each, whereas poem ideas are slightly shorter. Make sure your concepts aren't generic or overused, and jot them down as they come to you, even if you don't have all of the details figured out. (Just make sure they are ideas you are likely to return one day.)

Section 2: Reflection/Analysis

This section will help you to analyze "where the energy lies" in your life as a writer, so that you may gain a keener understanding of who, what, etc. are your best possibilities for story development. It should also help you face realities about writer's block, the dynamics that yield your best writing, etc. This section must include:

- An analysis of 6 myriad settings in your life that contain a lot of energy, memory, etc. from specific rooms to certain cities. Perhaps there are even settings you dream of frequently but aren't real; anything is a possibility as long as it's a location where you feel the spark for a potential story. (150 words/setting.)
- An analysis of 6 various people in your life, detailing their personalities, idiosyncrasies, etc; begin to explore which kinds of characters they might be and what types of stories could be told from their points of view, etc. (150 words/char)

- A written reflection analyzing the various dynamics and conflicts in your life (which often point to your preferred genre, story ideas, strengths, tone, etc, in the writing you create.)
- An analysis of your writer's block: What is it like? When does it occur? Ideas on why it occurs. How it occurs. Is there a way you can overcome it? What might that look like?
- An analysis of writer's ease/muse: What motivates you to actually go from an idea to putting words to paper? What brings about a fever to write consistently or prolifically? What environments, life events, moods, etc. encourage you to engage with writing? When do you love writing most? (You may address this in a way that fits you best.)

Section 3: Reverence

This final section is designed to deepen understanding of your respect and admiration for others' writing, conveying where you see talent and virtuosity, what you aspire to or hope to learn more about.

- Copies of 2 exemplary pieces of work from 2 CW major students, including 300+ words of analysis for each, detailing the writer's skill and specifics regarding what stands out in the piece and why you revere it. (You may use work from former graduates, such as pieces from senior chapbooks.)
- 2 examples of highly accomplished/published work that you hold in the highest esteem, including 300+ words of written analysis for why you admire each piece (cannot be the same form/genre for all). *One of these may be pulled from your Author Appreciation.*
- A (semi)objectively written self-critique of one of your own pieces of writing, poem or story, commenting on style, strengths, weaknesses, suggestions for improvement, etc. (350+ words)
- 400+ words of a comprehensive, honest account of where you are as a writer at the end of the year. Discuss the shifts, triumphs and struggles of the previous year, along with conveying your direction for the future...where you see yourself, what intentions (if any) you have with your writing...and so on. This part doesn't need to be optimistic, but it does need to be honest.

Please note the following deadlines for The Writer's Bible:

Mon., Oct. 7—Quarter 1 Assignment—Section 1, “Inspiration”

Mon., Dec. 9 -Quarter 2 Assignment—Section 2, “Big Ideas”

Mon., Mar. 9—Quarter 3 Assignment—Section 3, “Reflection”

Mon., May 4—Quarter 4 Assignment— Section 4, “Reverence”