

Creative Writing Bootcamp

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MIDDLESEX COUNTY COLLEGE

WRITES

CELEBRATING MCC FACULTY AND STAFF WORKS



HOW TO GET A PROMOTION

When Your Boss Is Trying to Kill You

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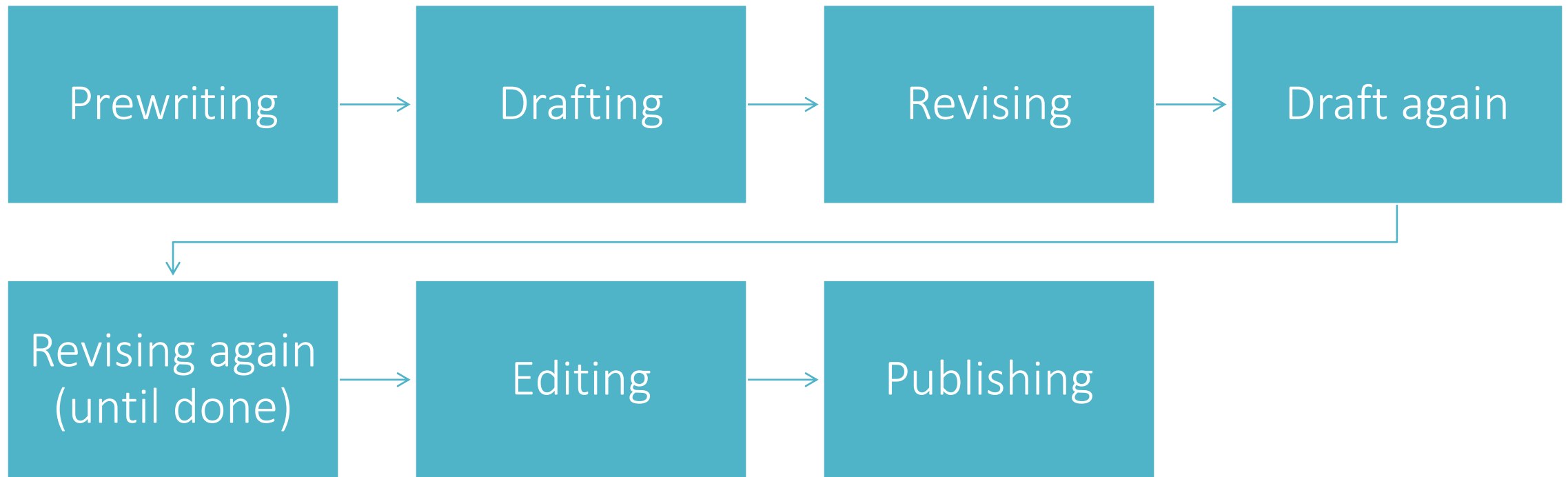
This event is part of a series of MCC faculty & staff engagement opportunities



Setting Your Goals

- ❖ What type of creative writing?
- ❖ How often will you plan to write? / When do you want a project completed by?
- ❖ What do you hope to achieve with creative writing?
- ❖ What would be your dream outcome for your writing?

The Writing Process





Are you a planner or a pantsler?

- ❖ Some people thrive with structure, but don't let it become procrastination from actually writing.
- ❖ Only sitting and writing will result in you writing.
- ❖ There are no rules in creative writing. The limit is your imagination.
- ❖ You must silence your inner editor.
- ❖ Editing and publishing is an entirely different step.

Writing Prompts

Writing prompts can help get started and avoid the feeling of not knowing what to write.

Develop a plan to write based on prompts. You can start small. Maybe, "Every Saturday. I will spend a half hour writing to a prompt."

Free writing prompts:
<https://thewritepractice.com/creative-writing-prompts/>



Don't Miss the Sparks of Interesting Ideas

- ❖ Many writers carry a small notebook and pen with them at all times.
- ❖ If you see something unexpected: write a quick note
- ❖ If you overhear an odd statement: write a quick note
- ❖ If you think of an idea: write a quick note
- ❖ At another time when you are sitting down to write, you can flip through your notebook and have many things to work with.

Start with the End in Mind

- ❖ Some people find having a clear goal an easier way to begin.
- ❖ Look up publications where you may want to see your work?
- ❖ Are they looking for writing on a specific theme? Is there a contest you'd like to join?
- ❖ <https://www.newpages.com/> has calls for submissions.
- ❖ You can start writing with this goal. Even if it doesn't end up getting published by the place you chose, you may have a nice piece of creative writing to work with.

The First Draft

- ❖ See if something you've written so far is calling to you to keep writing it and expand it into a longer work.
- ❖ Maybe it can become a short story, an epic poem, a book of poetry, a novel, or a memoir.
- ❖ For the first draft, you want to write as much as possible and strive toward reaching the end.
- ❖ Avoid the urge to go back to revise and edit while you are drafting.



National Novel Writing Month



- ❖ For some people, having a deadline is the best way to actually get a draft written.
- ❖ National Novel Writing Month challenges you to write a 50,000-word first draft of a novel in one month. www.nanowrimo.org
- ❖ You must silence your inner editor and write quickly to meet your goal.
- ❖ A support structure of other writers doing the same project can help stay motivated.

Revising

- ❖ Many of the world's most renowned writers believe that revising is the most important step of the writing process.
- ❖ Revise multiple times, focusing on different elements in each version:
 - ❖ Imagery
 - ❖ Character
 - ❖ Language
 - ❖ Sensory details
- ❖ When you feel you've made it the best you can on your own, find a reader you trust to give you honest feedback about what you've written.
- ❖ Revise another draft based on their comments.



Editing

- ❖ Once the text is as good as it will get, move onto the editing phase.
- ❖ The editing phase focuses only on the mechanical aspects of writing.
- ❖ *Is everything spelled correctly?*
- ❖ *Are the sentences grammatically sound?*
- ❖ If someone can help you with this phase, that is great as well.



Publishing

Now that you have something written, how do you want to share it with the world?

- ❖ Traditional publishing options
- ❖ Self-publishing options
- ❖ Share with family/friends/others
- ❖ Read at an event



Other ideas?
Questions?

How are you
planning to get
started?

What is
something
concrete you are
thinking after
this workshop?



Library Faculty & Staff Engagement

❖ Keep up with faculty and staff engagement opportunities on our website:
<http://digital.middlesexcc.edu/celebratingmcc>

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