

What Workshop Do I Take?

The St. Eugene Writers Conference workshops fall into three broad categories—voice, craft and works in progress.

Voice.

Voice is the unique manner in which a writer approaches a subject. This is the “accent” in the writing. The writer’s essence. These workshops are not focused on one genre, but wander through them all as needed to focus and develop the voice of the participants. A session might start with poetry, then move to memoir then to fiction. Or move in exactly the opposite direction. The sessions are fluid and bring out the voice of the participants in the most effective manner.

Craft

Craft is the structure and development of word choice to transmit your Voice. Once you determine the timber of your voice writing, you need to develop the craft to transmit that voice in words to the reader. This is craft. These workshops are usually in either poetry or fiction/non-fiction. The fiction and non-fiction writers are grouped together. Telling a story is telling a story.

Occasionally, St. Eugene offers a specific craft workshop. These workshops deal with narrow aspects of writing like screenwriting or play writing.

Writing the Truth, With Deryn Collier in March 2018 is another example. Deryn will lead the participants through the process of writing a memoir or a historic novel. In these instances, the writer must decide how to present the results of the research and what is the “Truth”? How do you develop believable dialog? How do you string together historic events in an interesting tension filled manuscript?

Works In Progress

For a writer substantially along in a project, St. Eugene offers *Works In Progress* workshops. These workshops are by admission only and limited to six participants. Prior to the session, the writer submits 50 to 60 pages of a work in progress to the rest of the group several weeks ahead of the Conference. Each participant reads and marks up the other member’s manuscripts. The group then works through each manuscript in detail during the session.

These sessions start on Thursday evening and run through Sunday. The leaders are multi-disciplined writers to allow a variety of genres in a single workshop. This is valuable because a poet will have a different view of the structure and tone of a piece of fiction and visa versa.

If the initial *Works In Progress* group wants to continue, St. Eugene will bring the original session leader back for the next Conference and the group will remain intact for that second session. These sessions will be designated with a “2”. Sometimes a writer will not be able to make the second session and a spot will open. If a particular manuscript will fit with the group a new writer will be admitted for the second session.