



School Talks and Workshops on Writing

The Writing Process

Thomas Mann said, "A writer is a person for whom writing is more difficult than it is for other people." That's because a good writer works hard to make it look easy. Writing is more than putting words on paper. It is a process that starts with gathering ideas and ends with a final product. This talk will explore the steps of the writing process and how the six traits of writing fit into it.

Writing Fiction

People who aren't writers often think that writing fiction is easier than writing non-fiction because the writer doesn't have to worry about facts. But writing fiction is actually much harder because the fiction writer must create a setting and characters that make the reader believe they are real. This talk explains how to use plot, setting, description, characters, point of view, and dialogue to make the reader part of the story rather than just an observer.

School Talks on the First Amendment

Can I Say That in School?

Good schools teach students to think for themselves. So what does the First Amendment say about a student's (or teacher's) right to talk about controversial subjects or express unpopular opinions? And who can bring God into the classroom or use school facilities for group activities? This talk will teach students about the general principles the U.S. Supreme Court uses to answer those questions.

The First Amendment Wasn't

Did you know that the First Amendment was actually the third; that its author, James Madison, didn't believe it was necessary; or that Thomas Jefferson wasn't there when it was written? This talk will explore the history of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and will provide students with insight into the question, "What did the founders think the First Amendment meant?"