CORE CREATIVE WRITING TEACHING NOTES

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Session structure

1. Writing at the computer during the main part of the session. On the basis that people are too busy during the week and enjoy the peace and concentration in the session.
2. Looking at copy and suggesting changes on screen to individuals during that time.
3. Mid session look at PowerPoint with ideas they can immediately try out on their own copy.
4. Drawing together main points at the end of the session.
5. Putting up student's work and editing on whiteboard if time.
6. Minimum homework.
7. Revealing Writers Toolbox hints as the weeks pass
8. Using blurb, radio scripts and TV treatment to encourage students to refine, clarify, redraft, their story content and structure as they redraft and add to and refine their copy.

Teaching Ideas in no particular order

1. **Idea generation:** Objects under a cloth, in a bag or put on the desk: Individually, people look under the cloth for a second or two and make up a story to go with an object.

2. **Students** interview each other. Find out aims and interests. Who why what when were why

3. **Round the room telling of a story** of an event during the week, while people arrive at the beginning of each session: encourages a lively start, stress on three key elements and an ending. The art of telling stories. Making notes. Embellishment is allowed!

4. **Students should read out loud**. Writer's have a 'voice': Alan Bennett's three sentence structure is the same as Wainwright's walking guides. Bryson too. Repeated sentence and paragraph structures provide a good read – easy to follow – repetitive but only work with excellent content of course.

5. **Radio script reading** great fun and just useful for confidence building and sense or reorganising own writing for a different purpose.

6. **Should read standing up** even walking around. Bathroom very useful.

7. **Laws of three:** ideas, phrases, Sound FX repeated three times. Once to attract attention, again to confirm attention, finally to make the point sink in.

8. **Alliterations:** e.g., **'dig dirty dog'** an old English tradition use it.

9. M201 very useful, but log on codes have to be checked. Radio output from bbc.co.uk available through whiteboard.

10. **Use of Acrobat.com** for staff to load up information (not powerpoint) and share content by email link to students. Free, secure, and useful for summoning troops before the session.

11. **USB memory stick:** Students should come with USB memory stick to bring in any homework and take back material.
12. **Filenames:** Students should not just save rewritten copy with the same filename. They should save updated copy with new date in filename. Then the body of work can be printed out and reviewed at the end of the course. Amazement at how much work and how far they have come, reinforces confidence.

9. **Mark up scripts** or text for reading aloud

10. **Don't use the passive verb** 'was hit'. **Use** active verb 'hit'
     eg: The boy was hit by the car. Poor
     The car hit the boy.   Cool
11. All text 1.5 spacing: easy to read and edit
12. **Moleskine notebook** Student should treat themselves to a designer toy and use these keep notes and develop ideas as per as used by Hemingway Bruce Chatwin
13. BBC website good for all kinds of script and audio material