MC 4382L: Correspondence
Course Sample
Self-Paced: MC 4382L: Site Information Display

Welcome to MC 4382L
Feature Writing and Freelancing
Dr. Susan Weill

Click the Course Content: Lessons, Readings and Video Lectures link at left
to access the Get Started materials.

Please feel free to email me if you have questions or concerns: well@txstate.edu

A few thoughts about writing from a few of the great writers:

"We are all apprentices in a craft where no one ever becomes a master." —Ernest Hemingway

"Not a wasted word. This has been a main point to my literary thinking all my life." —Hunter S. Thompson

"The first sentence can’t be written until the final sentence is written." —Joyce Carol Oates

"The difference between the almost right word and the right word is the difference between the lightning bug and lightning." —Mark Twain

"Belief and reader absorption come in the details: An overturned tricycle in the gutter of an abandoned neighborhood can stand for everything." —Stephen King

"I try to keep it simple: Tell the damned story." —Tom Clancy
### Course Content

#### Lesson 1 (Month 1): The Feature Story
- Introduction with video lecture (walk through of lesson content)
- Objectives and Assignments
- What Is a Feature Article?
- Photos required of interview sessions
- Developing and Selling a Story Idea
- Research for the Feature Story
- Interviewing
- Organizing Your Research
- The Feature Story's Structure
- Assignment: Student Introductions

#### Lesson 2 (Month 1): Practical Issues about Features
- Introduction with video lecture (walk through of lesson content)
- Objectives and Assignments
- The Journalist as Storyteller
- The Language of Newspapers and Magazines
- Once More Through the Typewriter (or Computer)
- Packaging for the Manuscript
- Law, Conscience, and the Writer
- Writers, Editors, and the Business of Freelancing
- Rights and Contracts
Lesson One (Month 1): The Feature Story

Introduction with video lecture (walk through of lesson content)

Video lecture (walk through of lesson content) 17 minutes

The photo at right is of the St. James Hotel in Cimarron, New Mexico.

Legend has it that it's haunted by men who were murdered there during the Wild West days. Jesse James and Buffalo Bill Cody were often guests at the St. James.

In 2011, a college friend of mine decided we should spend a night there.

She was much more nervous about it than I was since she is prone to believe in ghosts.

I'm not.

We went to bed that night wondering if we'd be terrified by the creaks and groans of the old building. But we woke the next morning well rested from a good sleep. I was a bit disappointed.

At breakfast, a woman in the room next to us said she was tormented all night by ghosts. Hadn't we heard her agonized screaming?

Couldn't say that we had.

The visit to the St. James Hotel gave me all sorts of ideas for feature stories. One of the best is about Dylan Holsey, a boy who goes by the name of Rattlesnake Wrangler in his career as a fast-draw sharp shooter. He and his dad visit haunted hotels around the world for a hobby. He practices being a gunslinger when he's not busy with homeschooling. Dylan is so good he was featured on the TV show, “American Guns.”

I saw Dylan sitting in the lobby and struck up a conversation with him about his hat. That's how I learned about his amazing life.

Sometimes the best story isn't the one we have in our sights. Often the best story comes out of our exploration of another idea.
### Student Contract and Timeline form - Submitted

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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>Derek Holden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
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#### Instructions

- Fill out the [Student Contract and Timeline](#) form for the six months of your enrollment in this course, then upload it here.
- You must submit any other assignments until you submit your contract.
- Dr. Weill will review it and confirm receipt.

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**Original submission text**

This is a test submission from the Office of Distance and Extended Learning