



### ***Teaching Narrative***

The best way to introduce the writing process to students, especially elementary and middle school students, is to allow the students to write about what they know. The personal narrative allows students to learn the fundamentals of academic writing without the added pressure of content-specific text-based responses.

This one-day workshop provides participants with the Jane Schaffer Writing Program® and its foundational approach to thinking and writing. Teachers will learn the terminology, color-coding, chunking technique, and ratios, all of which work together to produce thoughtful writing, even at the early grades. New writers must learn the difference between fact and opinion, and the JSWP method of teaching that difference is fundamental to the scaffolding of writing skills. Therefore, teaching the personal and fictional narrative will focus on the need for students to be able to separate the description of a scene and/or character from inferencing the effect or feelings of that scene or character. More advanced students, of course, meld the two together.

While the description of our approach seems highly pedagogical and advanced (and it is), the actual teaching of these skills in this one-day workshop lends itself to the bottom line of narrative: the when, where, who, what happened, why, and dialogue that makes for a rich piece of writing at a second grade level or an eighth grade level.

For K-1 teachers, their understanding of the color-coding and terminology will help them to introduce, orally and/or in a one-sentence-at-a-time approach, the basic understanding of CDs and CMs. For high school students, the personal narrative becomes fodder for the college admission essay.

Teachers will leave the workshop with techniques for training students how to organize and produce rich personal narratives about events, people, places, and things. As time permits, the workshop will include instruction on imaginative yet focused fictional narratives that include topic discovery, setting, point of view, back story, conflict, and resolution.