

Writing Techniques

Classroom Hours: 24 Classroom hours

Description/Overview:

This course emphasizes the importance, need, and mandate for “writing the vision and making it plain”. So many things are lost for lack of a written record. This course encourages the habit of writing down thoughts, ideas, vision, sermons, lessons, and the intents of our hearts toward God and His kingdom people. Many practical helps are included and numerous exercises to develop the habit of writing, with plenty of Scriptural support for encouraging this needed ministry tool.

Objectives: Upon completion of this course, students should be able to understand, and support the following concepts of writing with Scripture, whenever possible:

1. The importance God places on His written word, and the need for a record of our words, especially when they are a message from God.
2. The importance of the written word and the value of a Christian writer.
3. Identify the hard work (discipline) of writing while developing the habit of using all of our God-given senses to follow the leading of His Spirit with our writing.
4. Use the creativity of written word pictures to develop and grow in the power of the focused, written word.
5. Learn how to focus writing on a specific aim, beginning with a strong hook to the reader’s interest.
6. Use the imagination of readers to impact their thinking and defeat the ideas of the enemy of our souls. This will involve a basic understanding of different figures of speech that involve imagery:
 - a. Figurative language
 - b. Metaphor
 - c. Simile
 - d. Personification
 - e. Analogy
 - f. Allegory
7. Follow the example of our master teacher, Jesus, to get your message across using stories that present the facts in unforgettable ways, involving the mind, heart, and life:
 - a. Picture = Sight = To Know (*the mind*)
 - b. Mirror = Insight = To Feel (*the heart*)
 - c. Window = Vision = To Do (*the life*)

8. The basics and importance of research, making sure to give proper credit always. Know what plagiarism is and be careful to avoid at all costs.
9. Recognize and eliminate verbosity.
10. Be aware of the changes in writing made by a different perspective. Learn how to use different points of view in your writing.

Topics/Concepts:

- The Mandate from God for Writing
- Exercising Discipline and Sensitivity in Writing
- Using Creativity in Writing
- Understanding the Value of Different Perspectives in Writing
- Learning the Basics of Writing in these areas:
 1. Aim
 2. Imagery
 3. Figurative Speech
 4. Research
 5. Story-telling
 6. Awareness and Elimination of Verbosity

Recommended Primary Textbook(s):

Writing Techniques (by Barbara Westberg)

Recommended Secondary Textbook(s):

Overview of Course:

This textbook is designed to facilitate the writing of notes, sermons and lessons for the spreading of the Gospel message a consistent habit of all ministers. It encourages and gives how-to information for any level of study and expertise. The materials in the appendix are worthy of use, and the play by Barbara Westburg that is included there is an amazing example of the power and value of the written Word of God, taken from the Old Testament book of Habakkuk, into the New Testament book of Romans, and further into history in the life of Martin Luther.

Lessons include:

1. God Said, "Write"
2. Why Write?

3. Disciplining Yourself
4. Exercising Your Senses
5. Using Your Creativity
6. Focusing to Aim
7. Starting Smart
8. Using Imagery
9. Transmitting the Message
10. Searching and Researching
11. Making It Simple
12. Checking the View

These lessons, and the exercises and questions that go with each one, will give learners much needed help and tools to grow their writing skills, and open their awareness of God's design for leaving His gospel message in as many genres and venues as possible.