KANSAS WORDS

Dennis Etzel Jr

E-newsletter
								
tinyletter.com/poemslyrical
This workshop:

• Develop a ritual to continue writing
• Have tools for writing
• Look through examples of Kansas writing
• Write from prompts
• Develop a universal deck way to write
Name

Where are you from?

What kind of writing do you do or are interested in?

What do you like about the conference?
ROAD THROUGH WRITING

JOURNALING poetry

COMMUNITY poetry

ACADEMICS – poetry, fiction, non-fiction, hybrid forms
ROAD THROUGH
POETRY

IMITATION
INSPIRATION
PROMPT
PROJECT
??????
ROAD THROUGH POETRY

IMITATION
INSPIRATION
PROMPT
PROJECT
RITUAL
All poets see, hear, and love each other. New poets encouraged to enter the poetic utopia.
COMMUNITY
All poets see, hear, and love each other. New poets encouraged to enter the poetic utopia.

AUTONOMY / AGENCY
All poets are empowered to write and share through community.

SUPPORT

BOUNDARIES
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<th>POETIC UTOPIA</th>
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| SUPPORT |
| To find one or two other poets to share for feedback before bringing poems out. |

| BOUNDARIES |
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BOUNDARIES
Do not waste time and energy on anyone who does not support your autonomy or community-making.
KEEPING A (FANCY) NOTEBOOK

NAME / CONTACT

IDEAS ABOUT POETRY, FICTION, ETC.

INTRUSIONS

IDEAS FOR PROJECTS
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Some people write a reward for return

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INTRUSIONS

IDEAS ABOUT POETRY, FICTION, ETC.
From discussions and collected quotes

IDEAS FOR PROJECTS
“Poetry is an example of vulnerability as a strength”

--Dennis Etzel Jr.

“This is poetry as illumination, for it is through poetry that we give name to those ideas which are — until the poem — nameless and formless, about to be birthed, but already felt.”

--from “Poetry is Not a Luxury” by Audre Lorde

“Every poem is a descendent of God.”

--Li-Young Lee
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INTRUSIONS
From discussions and observations (this does not include having time to write)

IDEAS ABOUT POETRY, FICTION, ETC.
From discussions and collected quotes

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INTRUSIONS
From discussions and observations (this does not include having time to write)

IDEAS ABOUT POETRY
From discussions and collected quotes

IDEAS ABOUT POETRY, FICTION, ETC.
Often come from a combination of two or three things (e.g. childhood, movies, survival)
Examples of writing with poetry and fiction
Looking through our collection
Laura Moriarty

The Chaperone

A captivating novel about the woman who chaperoned an irreverent Louise Brooks [from Wichita] to New York City in 1922, and the summer that would change them both.
Laura Moriarty

The Chaperone
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The Center of Everything

“She wants us to come visit her in Wichita sometime, to come with her to her church.”

“My mother works at Peterson's pet food, right across from the slaughterhouse on Highway 59.”
“We live just off the side of the highway in an apartment complex called Treeline Colonies, four flat-roofed, black-and-brown units of eight apartments each, sixty-three miles from Wichita, three miles from Kerrville. There aren't any sidewalks, and even if there were, there wouldn't be anywhere to walk on them.”
Laura Moriarty

The Center of Everything

“When we walk into the Kwikshop, the bells tied to the door handle jingle, and Carlotta, the woman who works there evenings, looks up from her magazine and frowns.”
Laura Moriarty

The Center of Everything

“A Qwikshop Supergulp mug sits next to the cash register, filled with miniature long-stemmed roses, each one wrapped in plastic with a red bow across the top. A white card in front of the cup reads “The gift of a red rose is traditional way to say ‘I love you’” in Magic Marker. One rose costs a dollar fifty.”
UNIVERSAL DECK RITUAL

TWO TO FOUR PEOPLE – FORM GROUPS NOW

FIVE INDEX CARDS PER PERSON

I WILL TAKE YOU THROUGH THE STEPS:

Number each card as you write on one side

If possible, use a marker
On the other side of each card, draw an artistic representation for each word.
Make space

One person lays a card down ART SIDE UP

Someone else takes a turn placing a card down that is similar to or relates to the one that is on the table (intuitive play)

Take turns laying cards down
UNIVERSAL DECK RITUAL

Make space

One person lays a card down ART SIDE UP

Someone else takes a turn placing a card down that is **similar to the one that is on the table**

Take turns laying cards down
UNIVERSAL DECK
RITUAL

Feel free to add branches
Write “Universal Deck” and today’s date in your journal

Take notes of what you see as connections

Take notes like an anthropologist in the field

Do not worry about the poem!

There is no “right way” for doing this

Try to write for half a page or more
UNIVERSAL DECK RITUAL

Flip the cards while keeping the same order / chain

Take more notes of what you see as word connections

Add your own words, too!

Do not worry about the poem!

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Try to write for half a page or more
UNIVERSAL DECK RITUAL

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UNIVERSAL DECK
RITUAL

Time to share?
1) Write lines beginning with “In Kansas, I . . .”
2) Write about a favorite childhood memory in Kansas.
3) Write about a roadtrip across Kansas.
4) Write a poem like Amy Fleury’s, highlighting a walk through Overland Park.
5) Write a Kansas poem or start to a story like many of those included in the packet, about your identity in Kansas.
6) Write a list of things you enjoy about where you live, as well as not-so-enjoyable.
7) Write about sunflowers, what you know and don’t know about them. “I know sunflowers . . .“
8) Write a poem or start to a story that borrows a title or line from the Kansas packet of poems to start your own poem or story.
Time to share?
What questions do you have?

Would you like a personal ritual to help in writing?
THANK YOU!

Dennis Etzel Jr

dennis.etzeljr@washburn.edu
dennisetzeljr.com