

Allison K Williams

Keynote ♦ Workshop Leader ♦ Speaker

“Super fun, info-packed session!”

“Essential knowledge well-communicated.”

“One of our top speakers—rated 100% on ‘would see again.’”

~ *Hippocamp Creative Nonfiction* post-conference surveys

2nd Edition ♦ Revised and Expanded

Get Published in Literary Magazines



*The Indispensable Guide to Preparing,
Submitting...and Writing Better*

Allison K Williams

About Allison

Allison K Williams has edited and coached authors to deals with Big Five publishers (including *Only Child*) and inspired thousands of early and mid-career writers with her *Brevity* blogs on process and craft. Her work has appeared on NPR's *Snap Judgment* and *The Moth*, CBC's *Love Me* and in *Kenyon Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *The Christian Science Monitor* and the *New York Times*. She serves as Social Media Editor for *Brevity* and hosts the *Brevity Podcast*.



Topics Include

Get Published in Literary Magazines

A conference favorite! Getting published isn't a lottery or a slim chance—it's the result of a deliberate, thoughtful process. Learn to identify your publication goals, judge your own level and find journals that fit your work.

Master Class: Self-Edit Like a Pro

From big-picture structure to line-editing, learn technical tools to tell the right story, starting from the right place. Features scary-but-exhilarating “live-editing” of participants' work on the projection screen. Can focus on fiction or memoir.

Write Better With Social Media

Beyond platform and clicks—using social media to improve literary craft and make genuine connections.

...and more. Practical. Useful. New. Funny.

“Allison K Williams separates myth from fact to provide crucial, no-nonsense advice on the practical side of being a writer, and she does it with deft humor. You couldn't ask for a better coach.” ~ Dinty W. Moore, author of *The Story Cure: A Book Doctor's Pain-Free Guide to Finishing Your Novel or Memoir*

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Session Offerings

Suitable for 45- to 90-minute blocks

Craft

How to Write a Memoir (Or Finish the One You're in the Middle Of)

Technical Tune-Up: Improve Your Writing 10% Right Now

Beautiful Beginnings

Brilliant Endings

Publishing

Get Published in Literary Magazines

Writing the Memoir Proposal (short version)

The Writing Life

Write Better With Social Media

25 Hours In The Day: Planning and Living a Writing Life

So You Want To Be A Speaker?

Finding Your Center on the Page: Writing with Yoga

*plus...
Consultations & Critiques*



Master Classes

For 3-hour+ blocks, master classes include writing exercises, discussion, and attention to participants' manuscripts.

Writing the Memoir Proposal

Participants refine their memoir structure from existing draft or new idea, while identifying content and drafting sections of a memoir proposal. Everyone takes home a template and work plan for finishing their own proposal.

Self-Edit Like a Pro

From big-picture structure to line-editing: using the "Seven Drafts" process to finish and polish a submission-ready manuscript. Includes live-editing of participants' pages.



Workshop Descriptions

Craft

Allison's happy to teach a mix of workshops throughout your conference, and can offer one-on-one critiques or consultations by appointment.

How to Write a Memoir (Or Finish the One You're in the Middle Of)

You've got a big, messy pile of personal history to distill. Or you're not sure if your major life event can anchor a whole book. Starting with "In a World..." we'll look at dramatic structure, truth-telling without hurting loved ones, where to start the narrative, and choosing the events that belong in your book. Suitable for those with an idea, a draft, or a terrifying pile of material—learn how to tell the right story about the story you need to tell.

Technical Tune-Up: Improve Your Writing 10% Right Now

Some days we're wild creative geniuses—other days it's a slog. But rolling up our sleeves for specific technical

fixes can dramatically improve a manuscript on a "not-feeling-it" day. We'll look at language mechanics, phrasing, personal tics, dialogue and narrative issues, and how Find-and-Replace, word clouds, action lists and POV checks can make our writing 10% better, today.

Beautiful Beginnings

First sentence. First paragraph. First page. Decisions are made there, especially for writers without a long publication history. How can you open your book, essay or article with compelling, tight prose and powerful situations to immerse your reader right away and make them eager to read on? We'll talk about key techniques for great beginnings, then live-edit a few brave volunteers' opening words, applying the fixes to our own work as it

happens. Bring your first page, printed out and on a flash drive (if you can).

Brilliant Endings

Great endings are often deceptively simple—and hard to do. How can we avoid summarizing, moralizing, and over-explaining? We'll look at creating last lines and moments that give final twists, admissions, and unexpected empathy to leave the reader breathless and satisfied, thinking about your work long after closing the book or clicking away. Bring your last paragraph, printed out and on a flash drive (if you can).

Beautiful Beginnings, Brilliant Endings is also available as a combined workshop (60min+)

Get Published in Literary Magazines

Do you know how good you are...and what magazines are at that level? Do you want Payment, Prestige, or Publication? In this session, we'll go beyond technical and format issues and talk about setting publication goals, assessing your own level, and feeling actually-kind-of-OK about rejection. We'll also look at using the submissions process to improve craft, and how placing a notable essay can jumpstart the publication process for memoir and narrative nonfiction.

Writing the Memoir Proposal (short version)

Memoirs sell with proposals—whether or not you've already written the book. From your proposal,

agents and publishers evaluate your book's big idea, platform and content. We'll cover style and format, and how writing the proposal can help you focus the book you've written or the book you want to write. We'll discuss how essays, articles, and social media improve your attractiveness to publishers, and how placing a "hot essay" can jumpstart the publication process. You'll leave with a proposal template, ready to start work!

So You Want To Be A Speaker?

Got a message to give a crowd? Maybe you're a topic expert—or you'd like to be—but you're a little nervous about public speaking. Or you're already a solid public

Workshop Descriptions

Publishing The Writing Life

speaker who'd like some insider tips and tricks to get even better. We'll cover structuring the presentation, great (and terrible!) slides, owning the room, theatrical and physical techniques, intriguing intros and fabulous follow-up.



Master Classes

Pre- and post-conference intensives, or conference blocks of 3hrs+

Self-Edit Like a Pro

How many drafts does your novel or memoir really need? What common mistakes do agents see that you can fix before sending out your work? How can you improve your writing without spending big bucks on an editor? You'll learn why all great books start with SUCK, when to use (and violate!) structure to find plot holes and drama dips, and how all books are mysteries. From big-picture to line-editing, we'll cover the Seven Drafts, and what to do in each draft to write—and finish!—a submission-ready manuscript. With in-class self-editing exercises; Allison will also live-edit for some courageous volunteers.

Writing The Memoir Proposal

In this multi-hour class, participants will not only learn proposal style and format, they'll craft about 30% of an actual proposal for the book they've written or the book they want to write, and leave with a template and work plan for the rest. We'll discuss how essays, articles, and social media improve platform; determine whether their book is telling the right story from the right place; and develop an outline to write the next draft—or start the first one!

Program copy for this workshop includes additional text from the short version above.

Workshop Descriptions

The Writing Life



Write Better With Social Media

Platform—social media—building readership—too often, these feel like a distraction from our “real” work, or like we’re shouting into a void. But it’s possible to use social media to improve our writing craft and bring joy to our day and momentum to our career. We’ll cover using social media purposefully and meaningfully and how Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and blogging can be part of your literary world.

25 Hours In The Day: Planning and Living a Writing Life

Life. Work. Kids. Pets. House. Spouse. Too often, Writing ends up last on the list, under a pile of guilt about how we “should” spend our time. We’ll look at common problems: Overwhelmed, Lonely,

Unmotivated, Afraid—and tricks, tools and apps to overcome them. We’ll discuss how to prioritize projects; specific, actionable goal-setting, and explore how time-based, location-based, and mood-based planning methods speak to our natural work tendencies. Most importantly, we’ll define our personal missions and how our writing fits into—and is—doing what matters most.

Finding Your Center on the Page: Writing with Yoga

Taking quiet, internally directed time helps us stay focused through our writing practice. Feeling physically grounded can help us write deeply through difficult scenes, whether emotionally draining or technically challenging. We’ll explore yoga poses for writing preparation and connection, and for easing our backs, necks, hips and hands when

we’ve ended our writing day. Bring a notebook for writing exercises between—and inspired by—yoga asanas. Allison is a certified Iyengar yoga teacher; physical work will be slow, precise and suitable for all levels of flexibility and courage.



“I’d listen to Allison talk about just about anything.”

~ Hippocamp Creative Nonfiction Conference Participant

Why Allison?

- ✓ Smooth, professional communication and conference prep.
- ✓ A/V & technical expertise for visually engaging, striking presentations.
- ✓ Handouts, follow-up recordings, and social media reinforce your organization's brand and core conference message.



- ✓ An experienced editor and coach with a passion for teaching.
- ✓ A lifetime entertainer with twenty years' experience as a corporate emcee & presenter.
- ✓ A classically trained actor who commands the room with grace, personality and wit.

Previous Engagements

Speaking Keynotes Teaching



Rebirth Your Book

June 24-July 1, 2018 ♦ Fort Kochi, India

A startlingly new, imagination-stimulating, heart-freeing location.

A writing room for new discoveries and shared energy with fellow writers facing the same challenges.

A work plan tailored to your writing style and goals—to finish the draft and take the next step on the journey to publication.

For hundreds of years, the cycle of

reincarnation and regeneration has played out on the Malabar Coast.

Explore Fort Kochi's art galleries and heritage buildings, bustling waterfront and quiet backstreets.

Rediscover your desire for the page. Transform your next draft from a dreaded chore to a driving vision.

Rebirth your book.