

monthly mentorship

FAQ

Can I use the same writing sample for my Monthly Mentorship and Right to Write Award applications?

Yes, you can use the same writing sample for both applications.

How many hours a week should I dedicate to Monthly Mentorship?

- **Overall:** Some writers set a scheduled weekly time (Sunday afternoons, for instance) and request family support to honor that time and avoid disruptions. Others simply fit the work in whenever they can each week. This program has worked for more than a decade, supporting writers who are also working parents or full-time stay-at-home parents, full-time professors, teachers, retirees, or those with fixed incomes with disability or social security, etc.
- **Week One:** The Integrative Assignment arrives in your inbox. **Writers usually put in about 2 hours to get through the materials, though sometimes it can take up to 4 hours.** After that, if you do no additional work before Office Hours, that's OK. Or, if you put in 10 hours of feverishly writing on your manuscript or on new pages before Office Hours, that's also OK.
- **Week Two:** Meet live on Zoom for Office Hours. Attend having only glanced at the materials, or come having already applied new ideas to your work. In short, come as you are. There's no wrong way to participate, but the gentle accountability of this regular meeting will keep you engaged with the materials and thinking about new ways to approach your pages. During Office Hours you will hear from others, ask questions, submit an excerpt of your own in-process writing (optional), etc. **At a minimum, Office Hours last for 45 minutes, and at maximum, you might spend as much as 90 minutes in class,** along with as many hours as you desire spent applying your new techniques to your writing.
- **Week Three:** Take a deeper dive with your writing, utilizing that month's craft concepts. Attend Livewriting and/or write on your own. **Your time investment during Week Three is completely customizable.** Livewriting will provide you with great, real-time support without interrupting your own creative flow, and you might be surprised by the synergy and accountability this aspect of the program



provides. Some participants live for Livewriting, some NEVER attend; there's no wrong way.

- **Week Four: Plan on a minimum of 3 hours (2 hours for the live class, 1 hour for prep).** Some months there will be a Bonus PDF to read a few days before Master Class that's anywhere from 2-10 pages (usually 3-5 pages). You will be prompted to prep for your Partner Breakout rooms (using the Instructions in your Integrative Assignment). You'll get the most out of Week Four if you are ready to think deeply, to advocate for yourself by asking for clarifications, to perhaps submit an excerpt as a teaching example, or share any insights or issues you experienced learning and practicing this month's techniques.

What if I'm not a big fan of technology or video streaming? Or what if I have a conflict and have to miss one of the scheduled online elements of the program?

The cost of Monthly Mentorship includes an orientation week where you will be coached on how to use the various technologies and programs that we will utilize together (ex. Zoom, Thinkific). As the program unfolds, tech support is always available for issues or for clarifications, which are all addressed swiftly, kindly, and clearly. While it's nice to be on camera during live teachings, there are certainly exceptions and your faculty will be happy to accommodate. Recordings of Office Hours, Master Classes, and Literary Picnics are always made available afterward and are yours to download forever.

If you're not looking at my pages for line-level critique, how will I know I'm becoming a better writer?

There are several opportunities to share excerpts of in-progress pages with faculty each month. While our focus is *not* on feedback, we also understand that it's important to know if we really understood a new technique or made an effective revision. In Monthly Mentorship, writers are encouraged to reflect and inquire. They are given pedagogically based questions to guide them toward discovering their own answers to even the toughest issues on the page. Mentees are in regular contact with faculty, discussing their needs, resources, and challenges. The ultimate goal of the program is to help writers break free from dependency on others for line-level edits, and this is often accomplished by naming your successes, and discovering what unique approaches work for you. This is hard and rewarding work, but we firmly believe in the value of getting off the hamster wheel of workshops, and delightfully leaping into the understanding and autonomy that lasts, not just for one project, but for an entire writing life!

I'd like to speak with a writer currently enrolled or who has recently finished Monthly Mentorship. Would you put me in touch with someone?

I'm very happy to do so! In order for me to find someone who is the best fit to answer your questions or relate to your concerns, please email me (katey.schultz@gmail.com) and tell me more about your needs and questions, so that I can set something up.

I feel weighed down by obligation fatigue and overwhelmed by my own writing goals. Can your program help me move past this?

Yes. My goal is to help you bring more joy, value, and pleasure into your own writing practice, and to unburden you from to-do lists and impossible word-count goals. I also want to help you connect with your creative process so you can make decisions with confidence, moving yourself forward through projects with more ease.

In Monthly Mentorship, I will help you to become intimately familiar with your own writing process—what methods work for you and what methods don't. Rather than working against your natural tendencies—like overwriting, underwriting, never finishing, or unending edits—I will teach you how to work from where you are, right now, and with (instead of against) your own inclinations. With a light touch, I will show you how to spot your own unsuccessful undertakings and how to apply effective tools to get back on track. Together, we'll define (and feel) success, on your own terms.

I am struggling to fully understand and realize my own writing process. I believe in my project, but I worry that my initial writing lacks depth and my revisions often feel ineffective. How can being my own best editor help me through all parts of the writing process?

In Monthly Mentorship, we work together to find synergy between the creative, generative bursts of early drafts and the structural, technical steps of revision—which is also a creative process. So much of a writer's work involves making nearly invisible decisions, one after the other, which direct our writing and our imaginations down one path, instead of another. I give writers exercises and materials to help them make their own writing process visible, bringing consciousness to the most intimate, unconscious aspects of their creativity. This empowers writers beyond measure, and the skills and intuitions gained last far beyond just one chapter or one project. These are skills that writers benefit from for a lifetime.

I'm starting to doubt the value of my own work and am struggling to begin anew. I have a finished book or a work-in-progress, but I feel disconnected from that past writer and the words on the page. How can Monthly Mentorship reignite my spark?

Monthly Mentorship relies on an intelligent, kind, supportive community that focuses on slow, steady work through the long haul of the writing life, as well as the discovery of joy and satisfaction in our creative practices. We do not coddle one another, but we do uplift each other. It's much easier to leap back into writing—even writing that might end up going nowhere or draft pages that might eventually be thrown out—if we know that we're not alone in our creative pursuits. And it's much more memorable and satisfying when we can share our new successes and breakthroughs with our respected peers. The idea of reinforcing writing behaviors and practices with positive outcomes is as old as psychology itself; creating positive associations with effective habits gets results—in science labs and in life!

Additionally, the Integrative Assignments within the Monthly Mentorship program give mentees optional prompts each month, which are curated for generating new work or adding to existing manuscripts.

What about some other scenarios: I'm not working on a full manuscript. I often write in a number of genres. Or I need help reconnecting with a sense of play in my writing process. Can your program help me through my own unique issues and help me reach my own goals?

Absolutely. The craft concepts I teach—along with the Integration Assignments and resources—will be curated to meet your needs, including pedagogically informed prompts for generating new work, working with existing drafts, and everything in between. I'd love to talk more about the variety of writing you are exploring—email me (katey.schultz@gmail.com) for a phone date!



monthlymentorship.org/apply