



Nuts and Bolts of Science Writing
April 10-14, 2016

Workshop Leaders: Jennifer Swanson and Miranda Paul
Guest Faculty: Paige Hazzan, Emily Feinberg
Teaching Assistant: Clara Gillow Clark
Special Guests via Skype: Clelia Core, Carol Hinz, Alyssa Mito Pusey

Yoga will be offered in the loft of the Barn at 6:30am, Tuesday and Thursday

All meals and sessions will take place in the Great Room of the Barn.

Daily Meal Schedule, unless noted otherwise

Coffee/Tea: 7:00 am

Breakfast: 7:30 – 8:30 am

Lunch: Noon - 1:00 pm

Appetizers: 5:30 pm

Dinner: 6:00 pm

Sunday, April 10

5:30 pm Appetizers

6:00 pm Dinner

After Dinner Welcome and brief introduction of the four of us, our backgrounds, books we've worked on, and how it all relates to science.

Group Chat Everybody introduces themselves. Go over the schedule for the conference.

Monday, April 11

8:30 – 9:45 am STEAMing into Nonfiction – with Jennifer
Use the STEAM acronym to show writers how to find engaging, intriguing STEM/STEAM ideas/topics, write them in active, exciting ways

9:45 – 10:00 am Break

10:00 – 11:00 am	Targeting the right age group for your content – Paige Learn how to find the right audience level for your piece. Discuss different formats for nonfiction STEM writing and what works for younger versus older readers.
11:00 – 12:00 pm	Writing Time/Free Time
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:15 – 2:30 pm	The Importance of Narrative Nonfiction, or, How to Trick Children into learning about Science – with Emily Feinberg
2:15 – 2:45 pm	Break
2:45 – 3:45 pm	Getting Creative—Action Rhymes, Poetry, & Short Formats – with Miranda Learning how to blend science topics into engaging, short formats for younger readers or listeners (age 8 and under) through reading/performing examples and trying some of our own! An exploration of magazine and online publishing opportunities besides writing a full book.
4:00 – 5:30 pm	Individual critiques with Paige, Emily, Jennifer, and Miranda Writing time for those not in critique—rewrite for next group critique and other writing, if time allows.
After Dinner:	Writing time/Small table

Tuesday, April 12

8:30 – 9:30 am	Concept Picture Books—write engaging science books that aren’t necessarily “story” books with characters and elaborate) – with Miranda A look at creative nonfiction picture books, and discovering ways to balance the concepts, facts, and illustration with text that accompanies a 32-page picture book format. Learn how to make complex concepts engaging and understandable to young readers in grades pre K-4. We will also explore “back matter” and what kinds of information might be good to include along with a concept picture book submission or pitch.
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Tuesday, April 12 (Continued)

9:45 – 10:00 am	Break
10:00 – 11:30 am	Educational vs. Trade Publishing Panel – Miranda taking lead, with Paige, Emily, & Jennifer The difference between and Educational to Trade
11:30 – 12:00pm	Nature Walk – Notice the Science All Around You – Jennifer & Miranda
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:15 – 2:30 pm	"From Submission to Shelf": The process of creating a picturebook – with Emily Feinberg
2:30 – 2:45 pm	Break
2:45 – 4:00 pm	Researching your Nonfiction book – Writing a proposal, photos, and speaking with experts – Jennifer
4:15 – 5:30 pm	Extra consultations with workshop leaders as needed
After Dinner:	Evening Discussion: Science Trivia and Board Games Fireside (S'mores Science) – with Miranda

Wednesday, April 13

8:30 – 9:45 am	Nuts and Bolts of Submitting: polishing the dreaded cover letter, basics of preparing a WFH package, and figuring out where to send your work-- Jennifer
9:45 – 10:00 am	Writing/Free time
11:00 – 12:00 pm	Fictional Characters, Nonfiction Content—narrative science-based picture books – with Miranda From picture book biographies of scientists to fictional series such as The Magic School Bus, join us for a study of narrative science-based picture books chapter books.
12:00pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:05 – 1:50 pm	Building out science-based content for middle grade and YA readers (nonfiction and fiction)—Jennifer

1:50 – 2:30 pm	Break Time
2:30 – 4:00 pm	Skype with editors – with Miranda & Jennifer NOTE: *Carol Hinz has secured the 3:00-3:30 time slot via Skype* * Alyssa Pusey will speak at 3:30

4:00 – 5:30 pm	Individual critiques with Miranda, Emily, and Jennifer Writing time for those not in critique
After Dinner:	Open Mike

Thursday, April 14

8:45 – 9:45 am	All About Back Matter – How to add in-depth back matter to make your book come alive -- Miranda
10:00 – 10:30 am	Skype with Agent Clelia Gore
10:45 – 11:30 am	Making a Living as a Writer – Group Discussion Panel – Jennifer and Miranda and Emily
11:30 – Noon	Wrap-up
Noon	Lunch and farewells.