Course Title: Writing With Humor

Instructor: Billye Johnson

Course Description: Are you the next Dave Barry or Erma Bombeck? Do you leave your friends in stitches when you speak? Humor writing could be right up your alley. You will learn about the varied types of humor writing, current markets, and ways to sell your sense of humor for others to enjoy. Class assignments are designed to tap into your funny bone and put your sense of humor on paper and your name in a byline.

Hours: 18  Sessions: 6

Course Prerequisite(s): None

Course Objectives:
1. Write for a variety of humor markets including columns, articles, greeting cards and books.
2. Develop multiple saleable ideas based on current trends or ongoing situations that foster humor.
3. Market your writing through query letters, presentations or manuscripts.
4. Identify new or emerging markets.

Textbook Recommended(s): None

Lessons:

Session 1:
- Explore the general humor markets.
- Discuss ways humor writing is sold.
- Examples of various writing styles.
- Students goals.
- Student sample writing of humor.
- **Class assignment:** Write a column based on some aspect of the news or social commentary.

Session 2:
- Greeting card market.
- Requirements for greeting card companies.
- Student create their own line of greeting cards
- Create creating cards with punch lines.
- **Class Assignment:** Using family photos, illustrations or original ideas, create several greeting cards complete with punch lines.

Session 3:
- Prose writing for the humor market.
- Identify audiences for different publications.
- Write to the audiences just discussed.
- Syndication and self-syndication will be discussed.
- **Class assignment:** Write query letters and proposals for their humorous writing.

Session 4:
- Injecting humor into longer writings.
- Book-length works and humor.
- Differentiating between the humorous book and novels, or non-fiction with humor.
- Students to share query letters with class.
- Ways to market humor writing.