

SUMMER WRITING: PRACTICING PRO TECHNIQUES PLEASE SEE UPDATES!

What is “Summer Writing”? Margaret Shuman will lead seminars where students can sharpen their personal writing styles and accuracy, whether working toward proficiency in an upcoming writing class or in ACT, SAT, AP, college app, scholarship, or other writing opportunities.

Who can come? Any high school students of any schooling method.

When and where? One-hour seminars on selected **THURSDAY** mornings from 11:00 to noon at **Northlake library’s meeting room, on the left inside the front doors. Dates: June 20, 27; July 11, 18, 25; Aug 1, 8, 15, 22.*** Directions: <http://www.dekalblibrary.org/branches/northlake.html>

What will be covered? Each week students will study a different writing tool, looking at how various writers incorporate it into their work. Tools might include extended metaphor, anastrophe, parallel structure, apostrophe, specific and/or spare diction, catalogs of descriptors, anecdote, comparison, dialogue, satire, under- and over-statement, frames, and autobiographical account.

Will this material duplicate what students get in other “Shuman classes”? Margaret will be careful not to steal lessons from her other classes, though concepts may repeat because practice is ongoing in language arts!

Homework? Supplies? Students should bring notebook paper and/or other ways to take notes, and pens or pencils. Handouts will be provided. Each student will follow up the seminar with a piece of writing, generally 300 words in length, which will incorporate the week’s technique at some level while answering a prompt/question. This writing will be submitted by email.

Will there be grades or evaluation? Feedback will be given by email in response to homework. Each student’s writing strengths will be evaluated individually by Margaret as he or she joins the summer writing stream. ***There is a place for students of all levels*** since even professional writers keep practicing and incorporating new methods. The goal is for each student to advance his or her skills and writing confidence, not compete with others (could this even be fun?). If there are technical/grammatical areas of writing that need work, Margaret will focus her feedback in that direction as well. There will not be grades in the usual sense of A, B, C, D.

Registration? Cost? First time attendees may come to any seminar with parent and student contact info, including email addresses and a variety of phone numbers. **Payment cannot be accepted at the library** due to library rules, so parents can send a payment at the end of the summer if several seminars will be attended, or give Margaret payment in some way other than in person at the library. (See contact info at her website.) Cost is \$30 per week, including personal feedback by email on the homework as instructor tracks with student progress. Checks may be made out to *Image Production and Staging*. (Financial concerns can be discussed freely with Margaret.)

Is there an opportunity for individual tutoring? Parents can contact Margaret about scheduling private tutoring on these Thursdays.

To reserve your spot each week: Contact Margaret by email at Margaret@MargaretShuman.com at least 48 hours before the **THURSDAY** seminar you wish to attend. Since summer schedules can be erratic, please reserve for each seminar. If you want to attend but miss the 48-hour mark, call Margaret at 404-508-8318 and see if there is a space available.

For FAQs about Margaret’s teaching, go to MargaretShuman.com.

*If Margaret must miss a seminar, she will send a thoroughly capable and entertaining substitute.