

Instructor: Rachel Zucker
Lillian Vernon Creative Writing Center, 58 West 10th Street

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T/Th 2:30—5pm

POETRY WORKSHOP: WRITERS IN NY (A BOOT CAMP FOR POETS)

In this workshop you will learn how to pay attention to your writing and how to use your writing to pay attention to your experiences. You will write poems and will share these new poems with the group. We will focus on generating a range and variety of new work, but you will also have the opportunity to take at least one poem through a series of radical revisions and will get specific feedback from your peers and from me.

Together we will watch how the seeds of your experiences—the reading you are doing for other classes, the readings you are attending, your interactions in and with New York City, the exercises I assign—sprout into poems. We will also talk about how you can work to clarify the organic forms lurking within your poems or how you can work as a poem-topiarist and shape the poems to your will.

Come to every class. Arrive on time. We will have a wonderful time!

Please come to the first class with a notebook, pen, 10 copies of a poem that is about New York or has something to do with New York (not written by you) that you really love and 10 copies of a poem that you have written in the past two months.

T 5/23	Intros #1: Ten minute spill, AW5	Dream notebook; automatic writing; prose notebook; bring in an object; #2: Walking Sonnet; AW7 & 9
R 5/25	#3: Show and tell	#4: Central Park; first line; AW11, 13, 15, 17
T 5/30	First line auction	#5 First line; AW 19, 20
R 6/1	#6 Writing between the lines	Writing between the Lines II; 4MD (every day until end)
T 6/6	#7 Twenty little poetry projects	#8 The familiar
R 6/8**	TBA	#9 Dream poem; #10 Not so automatic writing; #11 “Only Connect”
T 6/13	Radical Revision	#12 Radical Revision
R 6/15	Final workshop	

Expectations:

- Attendance and active, constructive participation in *every* class
- At least two hours every day (56 hours over the course of the term) of writing time
- Several daily process experiments
- Completion of twelve writing exercises
- Three radical revisions and six revised poems
- Careful reading and commenting on your peers’ poems
- Demonstrating (in your writing) that you are listening to and responding to the feedback offered by the class on your poems and the experience of this program

Grades: If you meet all of these expectations you will likely get an A-. If you meet these expectations and turn in fabulous poems that show signs of thoughtful improvement, you might earn an A. Failure to meet these expectations will result in a grade that reflects the portion of work you completed and the effort you put in.

** This class will NOT meet at our regular time!