

What does “home” mean to me?

Workshop Leader: Madeline Cohen, Director of **All Write!**
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Madeline Cohen is the Director of Symphony Space's adult literacy program, *All Write!* She held the position of Education Director at Symphony Space from 1989 – 2022 and has been working in arts education for 45 years as a teaching artist, staff development leader, administrator, and consultant at the Lincoln Center Institute, United Federation of Teachers, and Teachers College, among others. She is a guest lecturer at Baruch College. In addition, she is a costume designer.

All Write!

Begun in 1993, **All Write!** is modeled on Symphony Space's Selected Shorts, the popular and critically acclaimed live and popular radio series featuring distinguished actors reading classic and short fiction.

All Write! introduces adult literacy students to the beauty and the power of the written word at a special Selected Shorts performance at Symphony Space. The program is for adult literacy students at all levels of Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language.

Each fall, students are invited to Symphony Space's theater to hear short stories and poems read by leading actors of the stage and screen. After this performance, students are encouraged to write and send in their own stories and poems to Symphony Space. From hundreds of submissions, the Symphony Space selects approximately 40 pieces of writing, which are representative of participants' varied levels and backgrounds and diversity of subject matter. In the spring, students return a second time to Symphony Space to hear these pieces read by the same professional actors on stage. In addition to hearing their own work read professionally, all students are given a printed booklet of the pieces selected, along with an acknowledgment of all those who submitted work to Symphony Space.

Symphony Space has assembled a committee of experts in the field of adult literacy. This literacy committee annually produces and distributes a resource guide to participating teachers. These guides help teachers integrate the literature read at the first performance into classroom activities, including a wealth of ideas for inspiring and cultivating student writing. In addition, teachers are invited to a series of workshops that help them use the curriculum guides effectively, and employ new and creative strategies to encourage and support original student writing.

All Write! is free to participating teachers and students.

For more information and a video about **All Write!** please visit
<http://www.symphonyspace.org/all-write>

If you would like to be on the **All Write!** mailing list, please email: allwrite@symphonyspace.org. Be sure to include your name and your school.

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AGENDA

- **Intro/welcome**
- **Warm-up**
 - The following topics will be posted on 8 ½ x 11" paper on the wall.
 - Your house/apartment
 - Your street/neighborhood
 - Food
 - Family
 - Your cultural heritage
 - Emotions
 - Using post-its, participants put a word or phrase on up to 3 topics the topic evokes.
 - Ask for volunteers to read the words. Write them on the board
- Discussion: How would you adapt these activities for your students &/or next steps?**
- **Journal to capture some of what has happened so far**
- **Cinquains (see form on following page)**
 - Using a word from the list already created, model one with the group on a large piece of paper or on the board
 - Write your own
 - Share with partner
- **Writing from an image:**
- Pass out one image (see p. 4) and one of the following prompts to each participant:
 - Tell the story of what's happening in this image from the point of view of someone or something in the image
 - Tell the story of what's happening in this image from the point of view of someone or something outside the frame of the image.
 - Describe what happened in this place and/or to the person/people right before the moment captured by this image
 - Describe what's going to happen next?
 - Write a dialogue between or among the people or things in the image.
 - Share in groups; hear a few out loud
- **Discussion: how you would adapt these activities for your students and/or next steps**
- **Journal**
- **Q&A**
- **Evaluation**

Cinquains

A “Cinquain” (“sink-wain”) is a five-line poem created as follows:

- 1) the first line is a noun, the subject of your poem
- 2) the second line is 2 present participles (“ing” verbs) related to your noun
- 3) the third line is 3 adjectives related to your noun
- 4) the fourth line is a 4-word phrase describing your feelings about the noun
- 5) the fifth line is a noun that is a synonym of or related to the first noun

Example:

Weekend

Relaxing, playing

Free, open, fun

No work to do

Party!

Here is a form for writing a cinquain that may make it easier for your students.

NOUN		
“ING” VERB		“ING” VERB
ADJECTIVE	ADJECTIVE	ADJECTIVE
4-WORD PHRASE		
NOUN #2		

Sample images for “Writing from an image”

