



Striving
for Excellence

INSPIRATION TO ACHIEVE YOUR PERSONAL BEST

Striving For Excellence In Written Communication

A Mentorship Program with Grace Fox



Do words intrigue you? They mesmerize me. They always have.

I recall the moment in fourth grade when I realized numbers weren't my forte. The teacher placed an arithmetic test on my desk the day I returned from a three-day absence due to the stomach flu. I took one look at the test and my barely-recuperated tummy took a bad turn.

Math scared me. But essays—ah, essays. Writing them made school fun. Social studies reports, book reviews, and stories—anything that meant stringing words together in a logical manner brought me great satisfaction. I had no idea back then that someday I'd become a professional freelancer and author.

Attending a writers' conference in 1999 launched my journey into the publishing industry. I'd designed a greeting card line and, convinced of its certain success, presented it to a Dayspring editor there. She kindly but soundly rejected it. "It doesn't fit our editorial requirements," she said.

Strike one.

I also submitted three devotionals to the women's magazine editor. "These are 800 words," she said. "They're too long for our publication. Cut 500 words from each, and I'll look at them again."

I shook my head. "I could never do that without losing the meaning of what I want to say."

The editor smiled. "Yes, you can."

"I don't think so," I said. The editor smiled again and turned her attention to another conferee.

Strike two.

Attending this event had meant my flying across the continent and investing in travel, accommodation, meals, and the conference itself. Striking out wasn't optional so I attended every workshop possible and determined to play the game according to the editors' rules. That decision paid off.

Several months later, I submitted my first magazine article. An acceptance letter followed, and then came a cheque. Success bolstered my courage to try again. Lo and behold—another acceptance. And another cheque.

Fifteen years have passed. During that time I've received my share of rejections, but I've written hundreds of articles—profiles, personal stories, and inspirational pieces published in more than 40 different magazines around the world.

I've also written eight non-fiction books and written/produced an award-winning DVD Bible study. My work has now appeared in several book compilations including *Hot Apple Cider, Mornings with Jesus 2013* (Guideposts Books) and in *Created for Connection*—a textbook used at Liberty University.

Sharing practical strategies about writing for publication with other word lovers brings great fulfillment. So does watching these word lovers realize their dreams.

It's my personal belief, however, that many writers never see their work published. This happens for various reasons: fear, procrastination, they don't know where to begin, their skills lack the needed polish, or they allow discouragement to overrule perseverance.

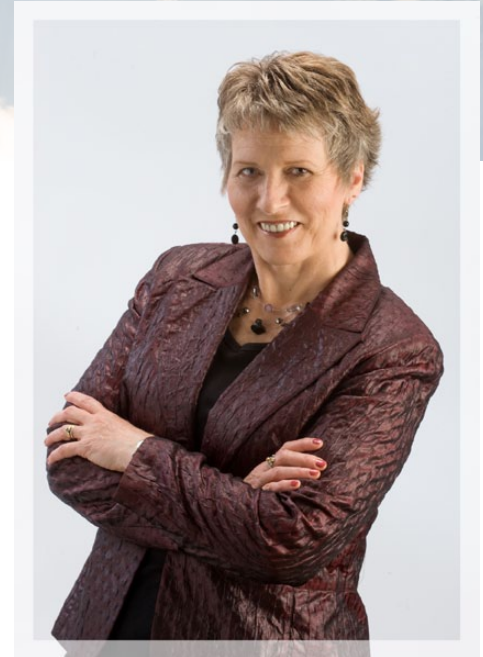
"Striving for Excellence in Written Communication" addresses these concerns. Some folks might assume that completing this course will guarantee publication. Unfortunately, there are no such guarantees in the ever-changing publishing world. However, participants *will* learn vital information needed to navigate the publishing industry maze and will develop/strengthen writing and marketing skills through group discussion and one-on-one mentoring.

Qualifications

What qualifies Grace as a writing teacher/mentor?

Grace has...

- written for publication since 1999
- published seven books. Her eighth book is scheduled for release in 2015. Her work appears in several compilations as well.
- written hundreds of articles for more than 40 publications worldwide. These include:
 - *Focus on the Family*
 - *Brio*
 - *War Cry*
 - *Power for Living*
 - *Today's Christian Woman*
 - *Clubhouse*
 - *Reader's Digest*
 - *Marriage Partnership*
- produced an award-winning DVD Bible study in partnership with Stonecroft Ministries (2012 Selah Award of Merit for Excellence in Bible Studies).
- completed the following marketing courses:
 - Rob Eager – Wildfire Marketing
 - Colin Sprake – Make Your Mark
 - Wendy Burges – Radiant Edge Consulting
- completed Media Insights training and appeared on dozens of national radio and TV programs including:
 - 100 Huntley Street
 - It's a New Day
 - Harvest Show
 - FamilyLife Today
 - Insights



- • **taught at the following writers' conferences:**
 - Inscribe (AB)
 - Write! Canada (ON)
 - Pacific Northwest Christian Writers Renewal Conference (WA)
 - Mt. Hermon Christian Writers' Conference (CA)

Testimonials

"Grace Fox is one of the most approachable master teachers I have ever known. She's clear, concise, and especially optimistic and affirming with beginners. She possesses the patience and discernment to guide them to success. People gravitate to Grace, and as her name implies, receive from her the blessing of a generous spirit and industry-tested expertise. She's a real gem."

Clint Kelly

Novelist/Communications Specialist

Program Coordinator, Northwest Christian Writers Renewal

As my internship mentor, Grace Fox provided excellent guidance and valuable critiques on my weekly devotionals for a local newspaper. Not only did I receive praise from local readers, but I also used those devotionals in my senior portfolio. Along with expert advice for garnering ideas and refining each sentence, Grace knows how to encourage other writers to produce their best work. She is a valuable coach to have in your corner!

Evonne Krell

MA, Healthcare Writer

Benefits

How will writers benefit?



This **eight-month writing program** offers strategies for success and provides personalized attention designed to move them toward their goals. Participants learn how to:

- find and develop ideas into various types of articles
 - self-edit
 - use a guide to find suitable markets for their material
 - write query letters that stand out amongst the competition
 - build a “platform” to grow their audience
 - overcome the “demons” every writer faces
 - discern whether self-publishing or traditional publishing is right for them
 - develop other resource-related products to generate income
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Details

How does the course work?



Anyone interested in taking the course must first **apply using the enclosed form**. The information provided will show whether or not this program is a good fit. Time and financial resources are valuable, and we want to ensure they're used wisely. You'll receive your acceptance within 2-3 working days.

Local participants **meet once/month for two hours**. They receive **eight MP3 recordings** of the material covered during these sessions. They also receive **two hours/month of private mentoring**. This is done via phone or Skype.

Long-distance participants receive the same **eight MP3 recordings** and **two hours/month of private mentoring** via phone or Skype.

Several recommended books enhance learning. The cost of these books is not covered in the program fee.

What's the cost?

There are two levels.

#1 – In-person group rate: Only \$1599—less than the cost of attending one major writers' conference. The fee is payable as follows:

- Enclose \$59 with your application.
- Pay \$260 upon acceptance.
- Pay \$160/month for eight months on the 1st.

#2 – Long-distance rate: Only \$999.

- Enclose \$59 with your application.
- Pay \$260 upon acceptance.
- Pay \$85/month for eight months on the 1st.

Payments are non-refundable. If the course must be dropped due to major illness or unforeseen circumstances, then participants may re-enter the program the following year.

Start date: mid-May

Location: Abbotsford, BC. Exact location to be determined

FAQs



Is this mentoring program available only for women?

No. Men can participate, too.

Do participants have to be Christian?

No. Grace is an evangelical Christian, but she believes that good writing is good writing no matter what faith a person holds.

What happens if I miss the monthly meeting due to illness or an unforeseen circumstance?

Grace will record the teaching sessions. You can ask her for a copy of the file.

What happens if I don't complete my homework assignment?

The homework assignments are meant strictly for your own benefit. If you don't do them, the homework police will not come looking for you, but you'll miss out.

What's the purpose of the two hours of personal mentoring with Grace?

You can discuss questions about your homework assignment, or you can ask questions about your specific writing needs/journey. Your success is her desire, so she wants remain open and flexible to ensure your needs are best met.

How do I schedule those two hours?

Speak with Grace directly to set up your appointments. To be used most effectively, they should be spread out over the month rather than back-to-back.

Application

FIRST NAME _____ LAST NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, POSTAL CODE _____

HOME PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____ SKYPE ADDRESS _____

GENDER _____

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT _____

OTHER TYPES OF WORK YOU'VE DONE _____

HOBBIES/SPECIAL INTERESTS _____

PROFESSIONAL/ACADEMIC AWARDS WON _____

IN 100 WORDS OR LESS, EXPLAIN WHAT YOU HOPE TO LEARN FROM THIS COURSE _____

PLEASE INCLUDE A WRITING SAMPLE (A devotional, a personal experience story, etc. No poetry. No fiction. 500 words max.)

Permission To Charge Your Credit Card:

- Immediately for the \$59 application fee
- For \$260 upon acceptance
- For 8 monthly payments of \$160 beginning _____ (give date)
- For 8 monthly payments of \$85 beginning _____ (give date)

Credit Card Information: Visa Mastercard

Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Name _____ CSV Code _____

Postal Code _____

Fax Or Mail Completed Form And Payment To:

Fax: 604-755-8286

Mail: Grace Fox

#17 – 2050 Gladwin Road

Abbotsford, British Columbia V2S 4P8

Questions?

Call: 604-755-8285

Email: info@StrivingForExcellence.ca

