

Susan Hess



Mission Statement:

An essay creates excitement; it persuades; and it informs the reader and the author whether writing about staplers, jazz, or the electoral college. My goal is to use the essay to give students an in-depth focus in writing.

Grades Served:

4 - 9

Lives In:

Hood River, OR

Homestay:

Not Required

Curriculum Connections

CS CT LA

Writing Essays and Opinion Pieces

Students write a series of short essays in this residency—using the teacher’s chosen subject area and goals. We will be learning and practicing: unity, writing leads and endings, style, reducing word clutter, transitions, and balancing opinion with factual information. We’ll design essays for: school papers, print media, radio and the internet. Students will do research to get facts and information about their topic using interviews, internet, books and/or magazines. The focus is to learn these skills while building the students’ self esteem, because in an essay it is the author’s point of view that gives the writing zest.

Staff & Community Offerings

This program is available for teacher workshops or to the community

Facilities & Supplies

Students need pencil/pens, paper and access to the school library for research. It is very helpful if students can use computers and the internet to write, research, listen to and watch online opinion pieces.

About the Artist...

Susan is a published writer who lives in Hood River and writes about community and environment. Her writing has appeared in magazines, newspapers, online, and newsletters. Her newspaper columns have won national awards. She produced a weekly radio program interviewing including police officers, windsurfers, musicians, architects. She has taught writing residencies and classes for children and adults. For ten years, she worked in the Medford Storytelling Guild—telling stories to children and putting on the summer Children’s Festival. She’s a member of the National Society of Newspaper Columnists, Columbia River Writers and the Society of Environmental Journalists and holds a bachelor’s degree in city planning, a master’s degree in business.

