

21L.016/21M.616 Spring 2007
Writing Workshop with Laura Harrington
Week Two

Workshop 1 monologue from each student -- this is real hands on learning as we hear these voices and begin to learn how to comment on each other's work. I call this finding the life line. Where is the energy, juice, excitement? Where does the voice capture and captivate us, making us want to learn more about this character and his/ her story.

This process enables us to start to "tune" our ears; to begin to listen as writers.

In class exercise:

Close your eyes and imagine a character as different as possible from your first character. Opposite in every way. Young/ old. Wealthy/ impoverished. Handsome/ ugly. Healthy/ sick. Believer/ Non-believer, etc.

Now write a monologue from this character's point of view.

For next week:

Imagine a scene or an encounter or a conflict between these two characters. Choose an interesting setting. Write a monologue from either character's point of view. Type it up, read it out loud to yourself. Re-write. Bring it to class next week.