

Views on Confidence in writing (extracted from interviews)

Viewing other writers' work

"When we were doing things like progression of a written piece you can really see that at the beginning some of them were really rubbish and they end up being brilliant. It's the way that you go back to things and you rewrite them and it really does take the pressure of you. The first ones I did, I felt it helped."

"You know when we go around the class, there's not going to be an outstandingly good bit. Well there might be... but there's not actually any pressure."

"Having" to write

"I think if you try and write poetry, which is something I would never do – I can't do it. If you're forced to do it, you think about it differently."

"I do think it did – it wasn't really obvious. For the journal for example, you have to write every single day – at first this is daunting, but really useful when it comes to your assessment."

"Yes, this is great, I've learnt a lot on this year... I think it's getting you doing some writing really. I think the main thing is the classes [the teacher] is giving you... You've had the lecture which has given you some great ideas about writing for say children, writing for the voice or how to do it first and how to approach it. Then in the workshops she always makes sure you're writing something.....you're forced to write something "

"I mean it's painful sometimes...it's not what you want to do..."

"You feel it's sort of necessary to do it, to experience it."

"I really enjoyed it... as I said it was daunting at first and difficult to get into. But once you do get into you really enjoy it. .

Getting Back into Writing

"Well I've had a couple of years out, so I found it really useful - it takes a little while to get back into writing and being disciplined about it"

"Yes – I think this is probably very useful for people who have just come back to education – if you come straight from college or school for example; you are in the habit of writing."

"Yes, it sort of gives you that really wide base. Every day you go away and you've done something that you never thought of doing before and yet, it just takes that 2 hour workshop... and you can go back and start doing it yourself and ... well, you think I wouldn't have had that.. It's very difficult.... You never would be able to do that yourself."

" but I think it's really good because it makes you do it. And because you're doing it in the workshop you know it can't be any good because you've got 3 minutes to do this...2 minutes to do that."

"// yeah and if you do that a couple of times it helps. I did something [again] myself that I did n class. And I thought I'll have a go at writing this... I felt quite good about it..

Giving and receiving critical feedback

"But I think what it really taught us is that you can take criticism I appreciate it for getting me into writing again. I've been out of education for 3years."

Indicative comments extract