

## **Writing on the Nerve: The Intersection of CNF and Poetry**

### **Description:**

CNF is commonly understood to be the “true” version of fiction, but a compelling argument can be made that it is often a closer cousin of poetry. A side-by-side look at CNF and poetry reveals that works in these genres often share common sources and artistic techniques. In this 6-session workshop, we will explore the intriguing and under-discussed connection between poetry and creative nonfiction. Along the way, we aim to inspire students to break out of their boxes and play in the spaces where these two genres meet, becoming stronger and more nimble writers all around.

Each 2-hour class will be co-taught by Emily Weinstein Blacker (CNF writer) and Shavahn Dorris-Jefferson (Poet and CNF writer) and involve 3 parts:

1. Discussion of a pair of short published works--one poem and one work of CNF—that reverberate off each other in craft and content. Students will be asked to read the works ahead of class.
2. An in-class writing prompt based on the readings.
3. Workshop of pieces written by students outside of class. Each student is invited to share 1 poem, one CNF piece of no more than 750 words, or one hybrid piece of no more than 750 words in every other class. We will provide guiding prompts for these pieces, but students are not obliged to follow the prompts.

### **Dates/Time:**

Mondays, 5-7pm EST on:

2/3/25

2/10/25

2/17/25

2/24/25

3/3/25

3/10/25

### **Where:**

Zoom

### **Size:**

8 students max.

### **Price:**

\$400 for the block of six two-hour classes

*Payment due in full 10 days before the start of class*

*Payment method options will be provided upon registration*

## Teacher Bios:



**Emily W. Blacker** is a writer, teacher and editor. As the founder of the Figure Eight Writers' Workshop, she has taught numerous creative nonfiction workshops to many devoted students since 2018. Her writing has appeared in *Ninth Letter*, *Fourth Genre*, *Under the Sun*, *Pithead Chapel* and other literary magazines. She was a contest finalist in *Creative Nonfiction Magazine* and *Fourth Genre*, received "honorable mention" in *Glimmer Train*, and was twice nominated for the AWP Intro Journals Project. She is the former nonfiction editor for *The Maine Review*, worked for many years as a high school English teacher, and currently works with middle school, high school and college students as a tutor and learning specialist. She holds an MFA in Writing from Vermont College of Fine Arts.



**Shavahn Dorris-Jefferson** is a writer and educator. Her work has appeared in *Off Assignment*, *New Ohio Review*, *HerStry*, *Rattle*, *Painted Bride Quarterly*, *Cimarron Review*, *Carve Magazine*, *Salamander*, *The Baltimore Review*, *Sugar House Review* and other journals. She received an MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts and is the former co-poetry editor of *The Maine Review*. Her work has been nominated for Best American Essays and the Pushcart Prize.

To register, contact Emily at [emilyw7@gmail.com](mailto:emilyw7@gmail.com)