

FAQ for Diana Burrell's Story Idea Workshop

How is this different from the other Renegade Writer classes?

For one thing, this is a fast-pass workshop, meaning I send you the material over a period of three Mondays and you do the work on your own. I don't know about you, but I'm not keen to share my great story ideas with other writers – they're my currency! – and I'm confident that during this workshop, you'll be developing your own library of great ideas. You don't want me picking through them, do you? All the exercises I've given you are designed for you to do on your own. Of course, if there's something you don't understand, I'm happy to clear it up for you – but unlike the other courses, I won't be available to walk you through the assignments.

How do I access the workshop? Do I need special software?

The workshop is on password-protected web pages on the Renegade Writer's web site. Every Monday, I'll e-mail you the web address, user name, and password to that week's workshop. Just click on the link to the workshop, fill in the user name and password (which are case sensitive) in the pop-up box, and you'll be taken to that week's workshop.

Do I have to be in a certain place at a certain time?

Nope. I send the workshop's URL/password out every Monday morning. You can read them and do the work at your convenience, although starting with the first week, you'll be asked to do some work each day. The workshop is progressive and you will get the most out of each one if you do the daily work.

Can I access the workshop after the session is over?

We won't change the passwords and user names for this workshop, so you can access it indefinitely. Indeed, that's what gives the workshop extra value – if in a year you need a refresher, you can run through the workshop again on your own. Please do not share the passwords and user names with anyone. This won't make us happy.

Where do I send my questions?

My email address is dianaburrell@gmail.com. Please include “Story Idea Workshop” in your subject line.

What kind of e-mail support to you give?

None. This is a self-directed workshop, which means I won't be seeing any of your ideas, judging them, or telling you which ones are best to send to editors. If you wish that kind of support, you should sign up for one of the other Renegade Writer classes, which are longer and designed for student/teacher interaction.

Of course, I'm happy to answer questions if you're having trouble accessing the course or don't understand something I've written in the workshop.

I'm going on vacation for a week during the workshop. Is that okay?

I would advise you to sign up for this workshop when you have a full three weeks to commit to it. It's not designed in a way that makes it easy to take a break. Each day builds on the previous day, sort of like weightlifting. It's not going to do you a lot of good if you have to walk away in the middle of it. Don't worry – I'll be offering this course a lot, so if you can't take it now, it'll always be there later.

I'll be away/busy/washing my hair when the workshop starts and would like to start a few days late. Can I do that?

If you're confident that you can catch up on the workshop to your satisfaction, starting a day or two late is usually fine. As I mentioned above, I'll be offering this workshop frequently, so you can always sign up for a session that works better for your schedule rather than start late. I'd almost prefer you do this than start late, but it's your decision.

Will there be any interaction with the other students in the workshop?

No.

I have a question that's not answered here. What should I do?

Please e-mail me your question at dianaburrell@gmail.com Please include “Story Idea Workshop” in your subject line!