Hello Writers,

We hope everyone’s writing is going well -- the 2016 Community Novel Project is adding more and new writers and getting geared up to accept first drafts and trade manuscripts for feedbacking.

Haven’t started writing? Feeling panicked?

- Reach out to your writing community to get help brainstorming: Topeka Wrimos facebook page
- Idea generator – current issue of Topeka Magazine is full of great Topeka history information, and the vertical files in the library’s Topeka Room are bursting with ideas and organized research
- Ask your friends who aren’t writers for their ideas!
- Email Lissa and Miranda at writers@tscpl.org when you have a topic/twist or if you need us!

Upcoming deadlines summary:

- By 5 pm on Monday April 11th, email your initial version for feedback of your story to writers@tscpl.org.
- Stories for feedback will be shared electronically the week of April 18-22.
- Online feedback form must be completed for at least 3 stories by Monday, May 9th at 5pm.
- Final submissions should be submitted electronically by 5pm on Wednesday, June 1.
- Final submissions of all author information should be submitted electronically by 5pm on Wednesday, June 1.

If you are new to the project, or want to make sure you are on track – here’s the list:

- Sign up and express interest in the project
- Review the list of specifications and event dates
- Complete and return the copyright form
- Claim your topic/twist/time altered scenario by emailing writers@tscpl.org
- More information at https://www.tscpl.org/novel

Story Pitches claimed so far:

- Kansans watching 1969 moon landing gone awry
- Alf Landon is president to start WWII
- Wizard of Oz twist
- John Stuart curry stayed to keep painting at the capitol
- architect of interstate and ‘66 tornado twist
- earthquake in mid 1800s twist
- library bond issue in 1990’s twist
- children and Menninger’s patient twist
- Kate Hepburn at Menninger’s

Project requirements, recommendations, timeline, and deadlines!

- The goal of the Community Novel Project is to help writers gain skills and learn techniques that transfer to their writing careers, through working together on a collaborative writing project.
- Attending writing events is encouraged but not required.
- Providing feedback to at least 3 other stories and receiving feedback on your story is required.
• Copyright form is required, author photo/bio/interview are strongly recommended.
• Final submission hard deadlines are June 1, 2016 on stories and author info.

WRITING
Through March and early April – Write your story. Revise your story. Edit your story. Get pretty happy with your story (but still be open to feedback from peer feedbackers.)
DEADLINE – By 5 pm on Monday April 11th, email your story to writers@tscpl.org

FEEDBACKING
This is a required part of the project this year, to engage with other writers and provide feedback on their story, and receive feedback on your own story. The goal with this feedback exercise is to improve your writing for your reading audience, and improving your ability to contribute to the writing community. Receive at least 3 stories, read them thoughtfully and fill out the feedback form for the author. Project Organizers will forward feedback responses directly to the original writers, ensuring that every writer provides at least 3 feedbacks and receives at least 3 feedbacks. Grammar and spelling suggestions are also acceptable but the goal of this exercise is not copy-editing. Stories for feedback will be shared electronically the week of April 18-22 and the online feedback form must be completed for at least 3 stories by Monday, May 9th at 5pm.

REVISION
Use the feedback from peer writers to consider revision to your story. Final submissions should be submitted electronically by 5pm on Wednesday, June 1. Earlier submissions are welcome and encouraged- this is a hard deadline and no exceptions will be made.

MARKETING YOURSELF
In advance of the May 10th “Marketing Yourself” workshop, information on author bio statement, author photo and author interview will be distributed. Final submissions of all author information should be submitted electronically by 5pm on Wednesday, June 1. Earlier submissions are welcome and encouraged- this is a hard deadline and no exceptions will be made.

COPY EDITING
While copy editing is encouraged throughout this process, page proofs of stories and author information will be available throughout June for copy editing, leading up to the first week of July final layout and printing of the Advanced Reader Copies.

ADVANCED READER COPIES, PREORDERS, AND LAUNCH!
Emergency typo correction, seeking positive reviews on Goodreads and possibly Amazon and other sites, increasing preorders
• August 22 – last day for preorders.
• September 25 – book launch