

**Johanna DeBiase**  
**Writing Instructor/Editor**  
P.O. Box 504, Taos, NM 87571  
575-613-3352  
JLDeBiase@gmail.com  
www.JohannaDeBiase.com

## About Me

I am an experienced editor and creative writer with an MFA in Creative Writing and a strong background crafting and refining essays and literary content for diverse audiences. I have taught university-level writing and composition both in the classroom and online. My editorial approach is grounded in clear communication, meticulous attention to detail, and a commitment to helping students express their unique stories with confidence with a strong commitment to supporting students from diverse cultural and educational backgrounds.

## Education

**MFA in Creative Writing**, Goddard College, Plainfield, VT

**BA in Literature & Writing**, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY

## Relevant Experience

*Content Writer*

*Taos Land Trust*

*January 2025-Present*

*Taos, NM and online*

- Craft engaging monthly newsletters highlighting upcoming events and programs for local non-profit, including conservation education and youth conservation corps initiatives.
- Collaborate with staff to develop and maintain a content calendar that aligns with seasonal issues, organizational priorities, and community events.
- Develop dual-purpose content that serves as both newsletter material and SEO-optimized blog posts, focusing on conservation, sustainable agriculture, and environmentalism.
- Spearhead a comprehensive website content refresh project, reorganizing and updating information to improve user experience and search engine performance.

*Freelance Writer*

*2013-Present*

*Writer's Digest, Hello Giggles, Taos Magazine, Taos News, Transitions Abroad, edible Santa Fe, Bustle, etc.*

- Freelance writer and journalist contributing articles, features, and essays to national online and print publications, specializing in diverse topics including food, travel, books, environment, health, writing, and parenting.
- Adherence to strict editorial standards and deadlines, maintaining editorial accuracy, integrating SEO keywords and actively promoting content across social media platforms such as Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, LinkedIn and Facebook.
- Background in literary fiction and essay writing enhanced personalized story development and crafting empathetic narratives.

*Director for Summer Writers Program*

*Polyphony Lit*

*2020*

*Remote*

- Directed the inaugural Summer Writers Program for Polyphony Lit, a nonprofit organization, leading the development and implementation of a comprehensive curriculum on Canvas.
- Designed and facilitated four interactive writing courses on Zoom, focusing on fiction, poetry, and creative non-fiction.
- Mentored 25 high school students globally in editing and publishing literary journals, enhancing

leadership and cross-cultural communication skills.

- Coordinated the efforts of hundreds of students, multiple interns, and various organizational groups to ensure the efficient operation of the program within a collaborative and supportive environment.

*Author*

*2020-2021*

*Callisto Media*

*Remote*

- Commissioned by Callisto Media to research and write two inspiring feminist gift books: "Inspirational Quotes: For Women Who Are NOT Sugar & Spice & Everything Nice" and "Dare to Be!" -an empowering book for young girls.
- Collaborated closely with an editorial team to align content with current market trends and editorial standards.
- Crafted engaging content following a detailed editorial outline and calendar, meeting weekly milestones and deadlines.
- Provided and received valuable editorial feedback to refine content for target audiences, enhancing the books' appeal and marketability.

*Author*

*2015-2020*

- Published author of "Mama & the Hungry Hole" (Wordcraft of Oregon, 2015) and "Gestation" (Finishing Line Press, 2020).
- Published in notable literary journals such as Hayden's Ferry Review, Portland Review, and Queen Mob's Tea House.
- Taught writing in diverse settings, including graduate and undergraduate universities, online organizations, conferences, and high schools. Served as a faculty member at the inaugural Taos Writers Conference for four consecutive years.
- Recipient of multiple writing awards and scholarships.

*Program Coordinator for Young Writers Program*

*2016-2018*

*Society of the Muse of the Southwest*

*Taos, NM*

- Managed communications between schools, teachers, writers, and students to facilitate mentorship programs, enhancing collaboration and engagement.
- Developed and led youth writing workshops, integrating local mentors to teach in schools and support at-risk youth.
- Organized two annual events for youth readings, demonstrating strong event planning and coordination skills.
- Collected data for grant applications, supporting funding efforts and program sustainability.

*Writing Instructor*

*Summer 2016 – Winter 2017*

*University of Arkansas Monticello MFA program*

*online*

- Taught engaging online Creative Writing courses in fiction for graduate students, integrating Blackboard, email, and social media platforms for collaborative learning.
- Developed a challenging curriculum featuring generative writing exercises and critical reading assignments to foster creativity and analytical skills.
- Provided supportive, personalized feedback to help both new and experienced writers hone their craft and build confidence.
- Designed and implemented innovative teaching strategies to enhance student participation and learning outcomes in a no-residency format.

*Adjunct Instructor*  
*Northern New Mexico College*

*Fall 2008 – Spring 2012*  
*Espanola, NM*

- Taught college-level English Composition I and Basic English II to diverse student groups in both classroom and online environments using Blackboard 9.
- Utilized the writing process to instruct students in a variety of literary methods and techniques, fostering analytical and creative thinking.
- Emphasized the importance of reading to help students analyze the craft behind written works, improving comprehension and writing skills.
- Demonstrated self-editing strategies to empower students to revise and refine their work independently.

## **Skills**

- Essay editing and feedback
- Academic writing and composition
- Creative writing instruction
- Grammar and syntax expertise
- Cross-cultural communication
- Student mentorship and coaching
- Workshop and seminar facilitation
- Publication guidance
- Collaborative team orientation
- Deadline and detail-oriented work style
- Virtual and in-person teaching experience