



# THE MARK

is a rigorous, manuscript  
finishing school  
for Emerging Voices  
alumni.

Download the Program Application at [www.penusa.org/2011MarkApplication](http://www.penusa.org/2011MarkApplication)

# THE MARK

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## Program Description

The Mark is a rigorous, manuscript finishing school for Emerging Voices alumni. Program applications will be accepted from Sept 12-Oct 12. The four participants, chosen for the Fiction/Non-Fiction session (Jan-April 2011), will be announced on Oct 25. **Project Defense, Mid-Term Review, Final Review, and Workshop** are all mandatory program components.

Upon acceptance to the Mark program, each participant will be scheduled for his or her **Project Defense** (Nov). The Mark faculty and PEN staff will be in attendance.

**Project Defense** will allow Mark faculty and PEN staff to learn more about the participant's projects. Participants should be prepared to answer a series of detailed questions regarding the creation and crafting of their piece, as well as their future goals for the project.

Following the defense, the Mark faculty and PEN staff will prescribe goals for the manuscript and a workshop schedule. Participants will receive goals in writing. Informed by the defense, the participant will be encouraged to prepare for workshop.

**Workshop** will begin in January 2011. The workshop will meet every other week, for eighteen weeks. Workshop sessions are three hours in length. Workshop will adhere to the schedule developed during the Project Defense stage.

**Mid-Term Review** will occur the week of Mar 6. All Mark participants will be scheduled for reviews with the Mark program faculty. Reviews will re-address the goals set out in the Project Defense and the participant's progress.

**Final Review** will occur on May 1. The Mark faculty and PEN staff will be in attendance. The participant will present their project and a discussion will follow. The Mark faculty will play a large role in this review, especially in regards to publishing and query advice.

## **Program Requirements**

- The Mark is an Emerging Voices alumni program. All applicants must have successfully completed an Emerging Voices fellowship.
- Associate PEN membership is mandatory for all program participants.
- Mark participants must live in Los Angeles or within reasonable driving distance of the city, allowing them to attend classes/advisor meetings without complication.
- The Mark is seeking program applicants whose manuscripts are either completed or near completion.
  - Manuscript page requirements:
    - Fiction/Non-fiction: 120 pages
    - Poetry: 40 pages

## Application Checklist

Mark application is due to PEN Center USA office by 5PM on October 12, 2010.

Successful applications will include:

- Application fee** – *All Mark applicants must be Associate members of PEN Center USA*
  - Option 1 (*for Associate PEN Center USA members*): \$20 (Mark Fee)
  - Option 2 (*for Renewals & Non-PEN Center USA members*): \$70 (Mark Fee & Membership)

*All Mark applicants who have opted for fee Option 2 should complete and return the attached PEN Center USA application.*
- Application form** and supporting documents.
- Two confidential recommendations** assessing your technical ability as a writer; your creative potential; the value of your proposed project; and/or your ability to succeed in a rigorous finishing program.
- Writing Sample:** A manuscript of your work (25 pages of fiction or nonfiction, double spaced, or 10 pages of poetry, single spaced. All work should be set in Times New Roman, 12 pt font) must be submitted.
- Personal Essay:** A three page (double spaced, set in Times New Roman, 12 pt font) essay that discusses your post-Emerging Voices writing and reading life and your interest in The Mark program.
- Project Proposal:** A one page (single spaced, set in Times New Roman, 12 pt font) project proposal that includes a three sentence log line and one paragraph synopsis. Project proposals should identify and define an audience. Please state explicitly what stage of this project you're currently in, include number of pages completed.

Be advised that all applicants admitted to The Mark will be asked for a critical analysis of their proposed piece within the first month of instruction. Strict guidelines will be provided to all applicants admitted.

**Applicant Information**

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Middle Last

\_\_\_\_\_  
Social Security Number Date of Birth

**Contact Information**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Permanent Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone (Home) (Cell)

**Genre & Enrollment**

What is your intended focus? Check one:  Fiction  Nonfiction  Poetry

Which Mark program session are you applying? \_\_\_\_\_  
Month Year

**Your Emerging Voices Experience**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Emerging Voices Fellowship Year Genre

\_\_\_\_\_  
Is the project you're proposing to finish in The Mark program one that you began as an EV fellow?

\_\_\_\_\_  
Who served as your fellowship mentor? Have you maintained contact since the fellowship?

**Education & Relevant Work History**

Please list all post-secondary institution you have attended below. Please be advised, PEN Center USA may request official academic transcripts during the application process.

\_\_\_\_\_  
School/College Location Dates Attended Degree Earned

\_\_\_\_\_  
School/College Location Dates Attended Degree Earned

\_\_\_\_\_  
School/College Location Dates Attended Degree Earned

Please provide PEN Center USA with a brief professional history of work relevant to this application.

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Please list any publishing credits, prizes, honors, awards, or personal accomplishments you have received which you consider relevant to this application.

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### References

Please list the names of the two people you have asked to send recommendations. The Mark program will not accept recommendations from former EV fellow mentors and/or EV Master class teachers.

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These recommendations might assess your technical ability as a writer, your creative potential, the value of your proposed project, and/or your ability to succeed in a rigorous finishing program. **Recommendations should be confidential and sent by recommenders directly to the PEN offices: The Mark c/o PEN Center USA, 269 S. Beverly Dr. #1163, Beverly Hills, CA 90212.** Mark staff will match your letters to your application.

### Supporting Documents & Applicant Signature

If the space provided in this application was not sufficient for detailing your relevant academic, professional, and/or publishing credits, each applicant may include curriculum vitae in his/her application packet.

My signature below indicates that all information contained in my application is complete, factually correct, and honestly presented.

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Applicant Signature

Date

**Applicant Recommendation**

*Candidate Statement*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am applying to The Mark, PEN Center USA's Emerging Voices Alumni Program.

I hereby waive the right to see my recommender's statement once it has been added to my file.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Recommender's Statement*

\_\_\_\_\_  
How many years have you known The Mark applicant and in what capacity?

Please assess the candidate's technical ability as a writer, creative potential, the value of their proposed project, and/or their ability to succeed in a rigorous finishing program. **Letters should be confidential and sent by recommenders directly to the PEN Center USA offices: The Mark c/o PEN Center USA, 269 S. Beverly Dr. #1163, Beverly Hills, CA 90212.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recommender's Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recommender's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date