**Writing That Changes Lives**

By Bill Watkins (2017)

1. **Laying the Groundwork**
2. Course overview
3. The topic in general
4. What I mean by “life change”
5. Where we are headed
6. Teacher ID
7. Your ID
8. The ground rules
9. **You and Life Change**

1. What have you read that changed you?
2. Why or how did these works have that impact on you?
3. What does this tell you about how lives are changed?
4. **Hindrances to Life Change**
5. Self-acceptance and self-perception
6. Intellectual
7. Psychological/emotional
8. Education
9. Family dynamics
10. Group dynamics
11. Culture
12. Vocation
13. Moral
14. **The Way Forward in Your Writing**
15. Know yourself
16. Know your Christian worldview
17. Develop your reasoning skills—to change lives, you must learn how to change minds
18. Become a student of great writing and influential thinking
19. Great writing and great writers
20. Influential thinking and great thinkers
21. Understand your culture and what you face as a Christian
22. Choose a topic that matters to you and to your intended audience
23. The value of a topic that is either controversial or seems settled but should not be
24. Do your homework
25. Find your focus
26. Develop a perspective, tone, or approach that differs from the usual fare
27. Perspective
28. Tone
29. Approach
30. Address real needs through felt needs first
31. Seek to persuade, not pounce or preach
32. Face difficult issues honestly, insightfully, and fairly
33. In your writing, strive for …
34. Connection over credentials
35. Clarity over cleverness
36. Accuracy over self-acceptance
37. Beauty of expression over dry narrative
38. Punch and passionate conviction over self-protection
39. Active voice over passive voice
40. Showing over telling
41. **Let’s Practice**