

DEBBIE EISENBERG MERION, M.F.A., M.S.W.

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EDUCATION:

Pine Manor College, Boston, Massachusetts
Solstice Creative Writing Program
M.F.A.

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
School of Social Work – Administration Program
M.S.W.

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
College of Literature, Science and the Arts
B.A. with high honors and teaching certification for High School sociology

EMPLOYMENT:

4/04 - Present

Essay Coaching, Ann Arbor Michigan www.essaycoaching.com
Owner / Educational Consultant

Coaching prospective college and graduate students to write strong, unique and compelling admissions essays. Also, coaching adults who are writing books. Teaching workshops for students, parents, and educators in schools and non-profits; also coach students individually. Author of [*Solving the College Admissions Puzzle: A Guide for Students and Families About College Selection, Essay Writing and High-Stakes Testing*](#) with co-authors John Boshoven, M.S.W, and Geri Markel, Ph.D. Note that Essay Coaching coaches students to write about their strengths in their own unique writing voice, and never writes for students.

10/07 – Present

Debbie Merion LLC
Owner

Freelance writer for publications and business clients, writing coach for adult professionals, and public speaker. See debbiemerion.com

10/88 – 10/07

Spark Communications, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Owner

Write company and individual profiles, marketing and advertising copy, computer manuals and topical, investigative magazine articles. (Spark was renamed Debbie Merion LLC in 2007.)

9/00 - 5/02

Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Adjunct Faculty member, Department of English

Taught a three-credit college course called "English 208 – Advanced Technical Communication." This is a required course at WCC for students seeking certification as a technical writer or web site professional. In this course, students use Microsoft Word to write professional documents and learn the documentation creation process from beginning to end.

3/85 - 2/88

Applied Intelligent Systems, Inc., Ann Arbor, Michigan
Senior technical writer

Designed, wrote, edited, and produced machine vision product documentation. This included system guides for end-users in factories, hardware troubleshooting and repair manuals for engineers, and reference manuals for programmers creating development software or customer applications.

AWARDS:

- 2014 Mom's a Genius, WXYZ-TV Detroit
- 2014 Gold Medal Winner, Global Ebook Awards
Solving the College Admissions Puzzle: A Guide for Students and Families About College Selection, Essay Writing, and High-Stakes Testing
- 2011 First Place, Ann Arbor Area Toastmaster's International Speech Contest
"Flying Safely Through a Big Life Storm"
- 2003 Excellence in Journalism Award (First place), Detroit Society of Professional Journalists
"The Depths of Despair," feature article in *Hour Detroit*, November 2002
- 1986 - 1987 Award of Achievement (National competition), Award of Excellence (Regional competition)
Society for Technical Communication
"AIS-1100 Vision Programming System Developer's Guide"
"AIS-5100 Vision Programming System Developer's Guide"

SELECTED SPEECHES AND WORKSHOPS (PRESENTER):

- Fall, 2016 [College Application Quizzes on WXYZ-TV](#)
- Fall, 2015 [Ask the Expert at St. Clair County, RESA](#)
- Fall, 2015 [College Application Essays on "The Now,"](#) with JoAnne Purtan, WXYZ-TV Detroit
- Spring, 2015 [Cool Careers in Writing:](#) Washtenaw Community College
- Summer, 2014 [Finish Your Writing Project class,](#) Ann Arbor Rec and Ed
- January 5, 2014 [The Edge of the Art of the Ebook](#)
Solstice MFA Graduate Program at Pine Manor College
- Nov. 12, 2012 Essay Writing for College Applications and ACT/SAT Essay Writing Sections
[2012 Michigan Pre-College and Youth Outreach Conference](#)
- April 13, 2011 [Partnering With Parents to Support Academic Preparedness in St. Clair County,](#)
Michigan College Access Network
- March 26, 2011 [Publish Locally, Get Read Globally,](#) Ann Arbor Rec and Ed
- 2007 yearly - Present. [College Night at Ann Arbor District Library,](#) [Video presentation.](#)
- 2008 yearly - Present [Ask the Expert](#) at St. Clair County, Michigan RESA.
- May, 2010 [Ann Arbor Writing Festival Book Conference,](#)
- November 30, 2009 [Writing a Great College Recommendation Letter,](#) St. Clair County, MI RESA.
- Presented regularly since 2004 The Art of Writing a Winning College Application Essay. Presented at Ann Arbor High Schools, 826michigan, Ann Arbor District Library, Ann Arbor Rec and Ed classes, and local nonprofits.

PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

Strong Essays Open Doors (in process)

[*Solving the College Admissions Puzzle: A Guide for Students and Families About College Selection, Essay Writing and High-Stakes Testing*](#) By Debbie E. Merion, John B. Boshoven , & Geraldine Markel (Gold Medal Winner, Global Ebook Awards)

[*Everything \(Almost\) in Its Place*](#) by Alicia Rockmore and Sarah Welch, (Debbie Merion, writing coach)

[Online listing](#) of 100+ publications including:

["Dear Sapphire Cross,"](#) Barnes and Noble Review, April 1, 2015

["Ess, Ess, Mein Kihnd,"](#) Solstice Literary Magazine, Winter 2015

["Sharon McRill,"](#) Ann Arbor Observer, November, 2014

["The Cardboard Crutch,"](#) Bear River Review, 2013

["Coopetition,"](#) Ann Arbor Observer, May, 2012

["Strategic Alliances,"](#) Choice Magazine, Fall, 2014

["Finding Judy,"](#) Crazy Wisdom Community Journal, Fall/Winter 2009

["Sallie Foley, Sex Therapist for Seniors,"](#) *Ann Arbor Observer*, November 2005

["Paper Cut – The U-M Picks Its Freshman Class,"](#) *Ann Arbor Observer*, September, 2005

[IPOs: The Secret World of Going Public,"](#) Feature in the Ann Arbor Observer, September 2000

WEBSITES

essaycoaching.com

debbiemerion.com

collegeadmissionsadvisors.com

linkedin.com/in/debbiemerion/

ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

Board Member, Lans Basin, Inc.

Co-Founder, A.W. A. R. E – an Ann Arbor Women's Stock Investment Group

Member, Better Business Bureau

Member, Professional Coaches of Michigan

Member, Author's Guild

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST. RECOMMENDATIONS ALSO ON [LINKEDIN](#).