


Writing Group Program

2020

Theme—Life Stages

We invite you to use the given stimulus for your story of 750 words for our writing group in 2020. In addition, we will be holding a discussion each month, as set out below. **Please refer to the notes on the next page.**

Date	Writing Stimulus	Discussion Topic
Saturday, 18 January 2020	The beginning of life—birth	Active/passive voice
Saturday, 21 March 2020	As a young person—childhood and adolescence	Comma splices and run on sentences
Saturday, 16 May 2020	Coming of age—twenty-one and beyond	Adverbs and strong verbs
Saturday, 18 July 2020	A new relationship—marriage	Nominalisations
Saturday, 19 September 2020	Working life—at home and further afield	Adjective/noun stacks
Saturday, 21 November 2020 Christmas celebration	The end of life— death 	Intensifiers

Notes:

Time and venue

- Meetings commence at 9.00 am and finish around 11.30 am
- Meetings occur on the third Saturday of January, March, May, July, September, and November
- We meet in the meeting room:
QFHS Library and Resource Centre
58 Bellevue Avenue
Gaythorne Qld
- We appreciate your gold coin donation towards the Library and Resource Centre

About the topics

- The stimuli are suggestions only: you may choose to write on the given theme, or on something completely different
- Remember, it is your choice whether
 - you write at all or just come along to enjoy the fellowship, or
 - you write on any suggested topic
 - contribute to the discussion

About the meetings

- New members are always welcome
- Our meetings are informal, friendly, and supportive
- After the meeting, we circulate notes rather than formal minutes
- Each meeting commences with introductions and general business—resources, seminars, happenings, etc.
- You are then invited to read your prepared writing and seek feedback if you wish
- The group aims to be constructive, helpful, and empathetic in providing feedback

About your writing

- We request you adhere to the 750 word limit
- Before you write, ask yourself:
 - Who is my audience?
 - What is the purpose of my story?
- After you have written your story and before the meeting, we suggest you read it aloud (to yourself or a captive audience) and check for readability and listenability¹
Ask yourself:
 - Are full dates necessary and significant?
 - Is an exhaustive listing of all members of a family necessary and significant?
 - Is my meaning clear?
 - Have I used a variety of sentence constructions?
 - Have I used straightforward, as opposed to complex, sentence constructions?
 - Have I been careful with my use of pronouns—he, she, him, her, it, etc.?

¹ Listenable: easy or pleasant to listen to (see <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/listenability?s=t>)