

Writing Group Program

2019

Theme: Improving our writing

We invite you to use the given stimulus for your story of 750 words for our writing group in 2018. 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, 19 January 2019	If only I could choose my relatives.	Writing the visual
Saturday, 16 March 2019	Why didn't I think to look there earlier?	Show not tell
Saturday, 18 May 2019	You couldn't get away with that these days.	Writing about occupations
Saturday, 20 July 2019	Records that lead me astray.	Writing the unknown
Saturday, 21 September 2019	Skeletons proud to be out of the closet	Enhancing bare facts
Saturday, 16 November 2019 Christmas celebration	How that brick wall was breeched.	Writing about travel in earlier times ★★★Christmas celebration ★★★ 

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>)