


# Writing Group Program

## 2021

### Theme—Retrospective

We invite you to use the given stimulus for your story of 750 words for our writing group in 2021. 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, 16 January 2021	A house and home	Apostrophes, exclamation marks.
Saturday, 20 March 2021	School days	Semicolons, colons.
Saturday, 15 May 2021	Holidays through the ages	Hyphens, em dashes, en dashes.
Saturday, 17 July 2021	My family	Commas.
Saturday, 18 September 2021	Pets	Pronouns, reflexive pronouns.
Saturday, 20 November 2021  <b>Christmas celebration</b>	Christmas past  	Other punctuation: slashes (/), ellipsis points, brackets.

## 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 or online:  
**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 listenability<sup>1</sup>  
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.?

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