



Writing Group Program

2023

Theme—If

We invite you to use the given stimulus for your story of 750 words for our writing group in 2023. 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
		If I am planning an article or longer work *
Saturday, 21 January 2023	Paint, in words, an evocative picture of a favourite location from your family story.	Where do I begin?
Saturday, 18 March 2023	If I could ask one question...	How do I start my story?
Saturday, 20 May 2023	If only I had asked...	How do I organise my information?
Saturday, 15 July 2023	What would have happened if...	What media—book, ebook, webpage?
Saturday, 16 September 2023	If walls could talk...	How do I involve others: co-writers, relatives etc?
18 November 2023	If I could meet one ancestor...	How do I cope with sensitive topics?

*These topics were the result of a suggestion by a group member. We will start the meeting with a brief discussion of the topic.

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 online:

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>)