



# Writing Group Program

## 2024

### Theme—A family member who...

We invite you to use the given stimulus for your story of 750 words for our writing group in 2024. 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, 20 January 2024	Was the 'end of the line'. (Died leaving no descendants/without marrying.)	Preparing your book  What goes into the front matter of a book and why?
Saturday, 16 March 2024	Had a large family and...?	Citations—what are they, and how do we create them?
Saturday, 18 May 2024	Died too soon.	Footnotes and/or endnotes
Saturday, 20 July 2024	Was married HOW many times?	Bibliography—what is it, and how do we create one?
Saturday, 21 September 2024	Had a child out of wedlock and...?	What is an index, and how do we create one?
Saturday, 16 November 2024	Died in war/far from home/at sea.	Acknowledgements, copyright, privacy.

## 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 the suggested topic or something completely different,
  - 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 using pronouns—he, she, him, her, it, etc.?

---

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