



Writing Group Program

2026

Theme—Write about relatives

We invite you to use the given stimulus for your story of 750 words for our writing group in 2026. In addition, we will be holding a discussion each month, as set out below. This year, we will take a slightly different approach and have alternative stimuli. **Please refer to the notes on the next page.**

Date	Writing Stimulus	Discussion Topic
		Editing
Saturday, 17 January 2026	An unconventional relative.	What do we mean by editing?
Saturday, 21 March 2026	Your most (or should be) famous relative.	Content editing.
Saturday, 16 May 2026	A favourite relative.	Tips for style and consistency. Style sheets.
Saturday, 18 July 2026	An adventurous relative.	Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in editing.
Saturday, 19 September 2026	A female relative.	Tips for copy or line-editing.
Saturday, 21 November 2026	An inspiring relative.	Beta-readers, feedback.

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 write on the stimulus or something completely different.
- Remember, it is your choice whether you
 - Write at all or just come along to enjoy the fellowship, or
 - 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 that you adhere to the 750-word limit.
- Before you write, ask yourself:
 - Who is my audience?
 - What is the purpose of my story?
- After writing your story and before the meeting, we suggest you read it aloud (to yourself or a captive audience) and check for readability and listenability.¹

Ask yourself:

- Are full dates necessary and significant?
- Is an exhaustive listing of all family members required and significant?
- Is my meaning clear?
- Have I used a variety of sentence constructions?
- Have I used straightforward, rather than complex, sentence constructions?
- Have I been careful about using pronouns—he, she, him, her, it, etc.?

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