



Writing Group Program

2025

Theme—Choice and Place

We invite you to use the given stimulus for your story of 750 words for our writing group in 2025. 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 Writing for a specific purpose
Saturday, 18 January 2025	A brush with fame	Writing family history for children
Saturday, 15 March 2025	Place – a village, town, or city Or write about a place for a child reader	Writing a news item
Saturday, 17 May 2025	Place – a school Or make it into a news item	Writing an obituary
Saturday, 19 July 2025	Place – a place of worship Or an obituary for a family member	Writing a biography
Saturday, 20 September 2025	Place – a street Or a biography of a family member. For example, for inclusion in the <i>Australian Dictionary of Biography</i> .	Writing a memoir
Saturday, 15 November 2025	Place – a mode of transport Or a short memoir.	Writing a family history short story.

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
 - 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 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 members of a family required 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.?

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