

# Life Stories: Read, Write, Review

## Discussing Each Other's Work

If you can to, bring in a copy of your story for each person in the group as well as one for yourself.

If typing your piece, **double space**, please.

The portion of your story you bring in for review should not be longer than two (2) double-spaced pages in a twelve-point font. This length should take you three to four minutes to read aloud.

Each person will have ten minutes to read his/her story followed by a group discussion.

### **Discussion Format:**

1. The author reads a portion of his/her work then listens to the discussion.
2. The group summarizes the story the author is telling.
3. We discuss what was good about the piece, what worked for us.
4. We discuss ways the story can be improved.
5. The author is then able to ask the group questions, request more clarification, etc.

### **Author's Job in Discussing His/Her Work:**

1. Listen.
2. Don't explain or defend.
3. Take notes on your copy while the discussion is going on.
4. Take parts of the discussion that are useful and leave the rest.

### **Reader's Job in Discussing Class Members' Work:**

1. Write comments on the pages, what you liked, what you didn't understand, etc.
2. Be specific in your comments, what **exactly** you liked, what **specifically** the author can do to improve the piece.
3. Follow the feedback sheet in each discussion.
4. Remember to give useful and constructive feedback. Give comments in the spirit you wish to get comments from others.
5. Know that you can learn more about writing by editing other people's work than you can imagine.