

Writing Your Life

Discussing Each Other's Work

Submit a story of *no more than four, double-spaced pages* in a document using standard fonts and margins *on or before* the given deadline. Four double-spaced pages equals approximately 1,000 words, so you may not be able to submit your entire story.

Each person will have fifteen minutes where his/her story is discussed.

Discussion Format:

1. 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 piece can be improved.
5. 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. Read the piece at *least twice*.
2. Write comments on the pages, what you liked, what you didn't understand, etc.
3. Be specific in your comments, what *exactly* you liked, what *specifically* the author can do to improve the piece.
4. Complete a feedback sheet on each story.
5. Remember to give useful and constructive feedback. Give comments in the spirit you wish to get comments from others.
6. Know that you can learn more about writing by editing other people's work than you can imagine.
7. Focus your comments on the writing, not sharing similar experiences, asking questions not directly related to the story being reviewed, and so forth. We want to make sure the author walks away with good information he/she can use to improve his/her story.