

Sunset Coast Writers

Guidelines for Writing Together

In order to keep each other safe as writers, we agree to:

write what we want or need to write, knowing that exercises are offered as suggestions;

read only when we feel comfortable doing so, knowing that we are always free not to share our writing;

respond only with what we like, what we remember, and what is strong, and not, at this stage of vulnerability, with what will make a piece of writing stronger;

treat each piece of writing as if it is fiction – whether it's a poem, a story, a song, an image or a memory;

refer to the person telling the story as the narrator or the character, rather than as “you.” We may talk about “the girl in the story,” or “the grandfather” or “the sister,” but we do not assume that the person speaking in the piece is the writer;

hold all shared writing in confidence. We will not discuss a group member or a group member's writing outside of the workshop setting;

concentrate on the writing at hand, not on anecdotes of similar experiences;

remember that while healing often occurs through our writing, we are a writing group, and so we keep our focus on the writing.