

LP² STUDY GROUP PROPOSAL FOR SPRING 2023

WRITING WORKSHOP

Coordinator: Charles Troob

This workshop encourages new and experienced writers to express their thoughts and to improve their writing style. Participants benefit from the requirement to write regularly—and from the knowledge that their writing will have a receptive and supportive audience. The assignments are intended to generate different kinds of writing from week to week: memoir, personal essay, fantasy, fiction, dialogue, description, commentary. Everyone, including the coordinator, writes a piece in response to each assignment and emails it to the group in advance of an in-class discussion of the work. Participant feedback is used to shape the assignments, and to suggest assignments for future semesters. The study group continues from semester to semester. We welcome new members.

Charles Troob has been a participant or coordinator in this study group since 2010. It has helped him to write more clearly and expressively—or so he hopes.

Type of Study Group: Workshop

Readings and other Materials/Online Services: none

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Group members write in response to a prompt or choose from a group of prompts. Their work is completed and emailed to the study group two days prior to the next session. At that session, each participant's writing is displayed and discussed. Attention is given both to what is said and to how the material is expressed.

Shorter assignments, with a maximum of 200 words. The focus of these very brief exercises is the use of language for maximum effect.

All members of the study group write these short pieces during the same week, and all pieces are discussed at a single session. Comments on each piece are limited so that we have time to discuss them all.

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Longer assignments, with a maximum of approximately 500 words.

While “good writing” is also called for here, the emphasis is on engaging the reader by the content: distinctive voice, sharp perception, honesty, thoughtfulness, originality. These are presented over two sessions, with half the group members presenting each week.

Each participant writes four shorter and four longer pieces.

In some weeks the prompt is optional; each participant may use the prompt or write something else.