

Writing Circles - Questions & Answers

- Are you a writer or aspiring writer, wanting to connect with other writers?
- Are you looking for support and gentle feedback on your writing?
- Are you an experienced writer, wanting to jumpstart a writing project?
- Do you need a place to check in and be accountable to yourself and your writing?
- Have you thought about joining a writing group but don't want to leave the comfort of your home or office?

Then a Writing Circle May Be Right For You!

Q: What is a Writing Circle?

A: A Writing Circle is a facilitated virtual small group experience for writers and aspiring writers. A Writing Circle meets for one hour twice a month via a telephone bridge line. The advantage to this group is that you can call in from any location and don't need to travel to participate in the group.

Q: What actually happens during Writing Circles?

A: There are four components to the Writing Circles. The first component is **check-in**. During check-in each person shares a brief summary of what they are writing or want to be writing. This can be anything from journal entries, to an article, memoir, or screenplay. Our focus is on the process of writing, not the genre.

The second component is to spend uninterrupted, **quality writing time** during the session. While we take only a few minutes to write during the session, you will find this can be a powerful experience, often breaking through a block or stuck place.

The third component is **discussion and feedback**. Because writing is a solitary activity, group discussion allows writers and aspiring writers the opportunity

to connect in a supportive environment. As a participant in a Writing Circle you will be invited to share where you are in your writing process---what's working for you and what is not. Members of the Writing Circle may offer feedback or suggestions if requested. Supportive group discussion is a core concept of Writing Circles.

The fourth component is **commitment**. As the session draws to a close, each participant is asked to commit to what they intend to work on between Writing Circle sessions. Sharing your intention with others in the group helps to create accountability and focus.

Q: What's different about Writing Circles from other writing groups?

A: Writing Circles are facilitated by an author who is also a licensed psychotherapist, trained coach, and experienced teacher. Writing Circles are not critique groups. Emphasis is placed on positive support of participants--- wherever they are in the writing process.

Q: What if I am not an experienced writer and am just starting out? Are Writing Circles for experienced writers, only?

A: Participants in Writing Circles range from aspiring writers, to new writers to experienced professionals. All are welcome. Because we learn from one another in the group process and emphasize a highly supportive environment, your level of experience need not be an issue.

Q: How often do Writing Circles meet?

A: Each Writing Circle meets twice a month. You are asked to commit for three months at a time. The Virtual Writing Circle meets Tuesdays from 9:00 am - 10:00 am (Pacific).

Q: How much does it cost?

A: The Virtual Writing Circle is \$65 per month. That includes two hours per month of professional group coaching, a fraction of the cost of individual coaching. Or take advantage of our "The First One's On Me" offer. Come to the first session for free and only pay if you choose to continue.

Q: What exactly do I get from being in a Writing Circle?

A:

- Two one-hour sessions per month of a facilitated small group writing experience
- A facilitator who is a licensed and experienced psychotherapist, as well as an experienced writer, coach and teacher
- A supportive community of other writers you can connect to virtually
- An opportunity to meet with the facilitator 1:1 by phone for monthly mini-sessions, if needed

Q: How do I sign up?

A: If you would like more information about Writing Circles, contact Susan Borkin at (408) 973-7877 or write to <mailto:susan@susanborkin.com> with "Writing Circle" in the subject line. To register [click here](#), go to the International Association for Journal Writing.



About the Facilitator:

Susan Borkin, M.A. is a licensed psychotherapist, coach and writer. She is the founder of Write Now! a professional practice specializing in the use of writing for personal and professional growth. Susan specializes in helping people overcome creative blocks and achieve deep personal transformation through the use of writing. A personal growth writing teacher since 1978, she is the author of *Writing From the Inside Out*, *When Your Heart Speaks*, *Take Good Notes*, and recently published, *The Healing Power of Writing* (W.W. Norton).