

AAGRAPEVINE, Inc.

WRITING WORKSHOP GUIDELINES

WORKSHOP TIPS

You don't have to have had prior publishing experience. All you need is a little willingness and the desire to share. There are many ways to conduct a Grapevine Writing Workshop, the following are a few basic tips to get started:

PLANNING AHEAD

- *Invite GV Workshop participants with an announcement at a meeting, use a flyer or email, invite, phone call or text.*
- *Provide a date and a time frame – one and a half to two hours is enough for a small gathering.*
- *Choose a location with good lighting, ample seating and surfaces for writing.*
- *Have plenty of pens and paper on hand for participants' use - unless computers or laptops will be used.*
- *Topics - A single topic can be used or each participant may choose their own topic. Some topic suggestions are included here: Newcomers, Emotional Sobriety, Sponsorship, Young & Sober, Old-Timers, Spiritual Awakening, Doing Service, Fun in Sobriety, My Favorite Slogan, My Home Group, Feeling Different, The Holidays, What's On Your Mind?, or write your experience with a certain Step or Tradition, or write jokes for "At Wit's End" or a letter for "Dear Grapevine.*
- *Think about inviting someone who has written a story for Grapevine, or that has been touched or helped by a story to share their experience briefly for inspiration.*

THE DAY OF THE WORKSHOP

- *Choose a leader to guide the group through the process*
- *Have participants introduce themselves*
- *Give a timeline such as: 30 minutes for reading or sharing for inspiration, 30 minutes for writing and the remainder of the time for participants to read their stories to the group if they wish. It's good to plan for a little break somewhere along the way, too.*
- *Give a copy of the writing guidelines to everyone or read them out loud*
- *Offer possible topics for consideration*
- *Begin with the reading or GV story writer*
- *Start all participants writing for an agreed amount of time*
- *Once ready, begin the reading portion of the workshop.*

- *Collect the stories for submission to GV (Be sure to have the authors include their name, geographic location, email and phone number. Please suggest that the writers make copies before sending their submissions to GV.)*
- *For those who do not finish their story, please encourage them to take it home, take their time, and finish it rather than hand it in before it is completed.*

GUIDELINES FOR WRITING and SUBMITTING YOUR STORY

Please take a look at ***Grapevine's Guidelines for Contributing to Grapevine*** (www.aagrapevine.org/share) to give you information on how to write and submit your stories to the magazines.

Scan and send finished stories to: gveditorial@aagrapevine.org

*Or mail to: Grapevine Editorial Department
475 Riverside Drive, 11th floor*

If you're not inclined to write your story, you can always submit your photographs, illustrations or cartoons to Grapevine at the address above or try the

Grapevine Audio Project

or put on a

Record Your Story Workshop

For more information visit www.aagrapevine.org/audio-portal

GRAPEVINE magazine and website are primarily made up of stories from members of the Fellowship. Your stories make it possible for Grapevine to carry the message to everyone interested in alcoholism through the magazine, website and other items. The stories reflect the experience, strength and hope of members and friends on topics related to unity, recovery and service. Each story or issue has the potential to carry the message in unforeseen ways. The stories travel far beyond the flagship magazines: AAGV, Inc. publishes the magazines in print, digital and audio, books and ebooks, a website and the Audio Project.

The Grapevine Story Archive - contains every story since the first issue in 1944.

Become a part of this living history by writing your story for Grapevine!

2.8.16