



Writing Workshop Guidelines

The Astro-writing salon is designed to offer a safe environment in which to create. The guidelines below are offered in support of creativity.

- **Give yourself permission** to write what wants to be written. Try to leave your inner critic at the door and just **keep your pen moving** until the timer goes off.
- You are free to ignore the writing prompts and **write whatever you like**.
- **Spelling, grammar, and punctuation do not matter** in these sessions. It is more important to keep writing for the full time allotted, even if you think you are finished.
- Feel free to keep writing past the time limit if you choose.
- Reading your work out loud during the sharing time is optional, but encouraged. Reading out loud is a form of feedback in and of itself.
- If a writer requests reflection, **we share what we liked**, what was memorable, what was strong, rather than suggestions for making it 'better'.
- **In order to respect privacy and keep the focus on the writing, we treat all writing as fictional**, referring to "the narrator" rather than "you" in our feedback. Please treat whatever is shared in the workshop as writing, not information about each other's lives.
- Everyone is given the space to have his/her experience, including emotions and opinions that come up during the workshop. Give each other the respect of space.
- Anything shared in the group is confidential and not to be shared elsewhere.