

Just Write Newsletter ~ Volume 5, Issue 5 ~ May 2016

Just Write: The At-Large Chapter for the League of Utah Writers



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Writing Quotes

“The most valuable of all talents is that of never using two words when one will do.”

– Thomas Jefferson

“It is my ambition to say in ten sentences what others say in a whole book.” – Friedrich Nietzsche

“Writing is 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent elimination.” – Louise Brooks

“Brevity in writing is very powerful.” – Lance Greenfield

“Through an arbitrary problem I had arrived at a tenet of good writing: Brevity wins.”

– Michael Winter

“Personally, I am always more impressed by simplicity, clarity; it is the mark of a writer who knows his subject well and is secure enough not to 'lay it on' in the telling. Aim for complexity of thought, not expression.” – Noah Lukeman, The First Five Pages: A Writer's Guide to Saying Out of the Rejection Pile

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Critique Group

May– Next Critique/Review Session Starts May 31st: Please join us in the next session of our Critique & Review group. We have a nice cadre of determined authors who provide useful feedback for your story. All Just Write members are welcome to participate.

We hold two critique sessions a month, one starting around the 15th and the other starting at the end of month. You can join as often as you want. Mechelle and I take turns directing the sessions.

Write On!

Editorial: Brevity

I'm devoting this issue to the subject of Brevity: The art of saying more with less. I judge in various writing contests and one of the things I will mark down (give lower points) is wordiness. In creative writing wordiness generally means using three to ten words when one or two would be better. Unnecessary redundancy and using too many prepositional phrases are good indicators of wordiness along with using too many state of being verbs.

Wordiness may be caused by a poor vocabulary, by not understanding the difference between brevity and wordiness, or just a lack of editing. A big problem with wordiness, and why it can cost the author a contest prize or publication in a magazine, is that it weakens the story or article. In creative writing wordiness often deflates the emotional intent of a sentence or paragraph. With nonfiction wordiness can muddle or hide the intended message and bore the audience.

Tight writing is the opposite of wordiness. By tight writing I don't mean constructing shorter sentences, but writing sentences with few if any superfluous words. Tight writing doesn't cause readers to yawn, wince, shake their heads, or quit reading. Instead tight writing piques the reader's interest by keeping him/her entertained. Right writing gets in, gets the job done, and gets on with it. Writers who know how to Write Tight have learned how to increase reader interest.

For some examples of wordy sentences and how to fix them, check out this page from a Writing Symposium at Penn State: <https://www.e-education.psu.edu/geog438w/node/342>

Keep writing!

~Ann

LUW Anthology:

The latest anthology published by the **League of Utah Writers** is now available on Amazon. Wheel! It's named **Mirrored Realities** and my Selene story is included. At 7500 words it is the longest entry, but they said they'd include it. So far the reviews of the book are great. Hope you buy a copy: http://www.amazon.com/Mirrored-Realities-Collection-Prose-Poetry/dp/0988236737/ref=sr_1_1

This is another good reason to enter the LUW Contest. The contest winners have a chance to be included in the next LUW anthology.

Writing Conferences and Workshops

- ▶ **LUW Fall Conference: September 2–3.** This is the League's biggest event. This year our conference will be held in West Valley City. Details will be posted in the League newsletter "The Quill" and on the League website. <http://luwriters.org/> Please keep these dates open. This is a wonderful writing conference for an affordable price. And this is where LUW contest winners are first announced. I hope to see you there.

- ▶ **Colorado Gold Conference – Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers: September 9-11, 2016.** Denver, Colorado. This is their 34th Annual writing conference. They always have a dozen agents and acquisition editors from publishing houses all over the country. Good place to pitch your book. Conference held at Renaissance Hotel, Denver, CO. <http://rmfw.org/conference/>

Writing Contests

- ▶ **League of Utah Writers Contest: This is a great contest!** The deadline is June 12th. The League uses an outside source for judging to eliminate favoritism. Good! LUW now uses *Submittable* so we no longer send our stories, chapters and poems to the League contest chair. For submission details, go here: <https://luwriters.submittable.com/submit>

The Contest Guidelines are well defined. Let's enter our best stuff and show the League that Just Write has award-winning authors too! Remember to have someone beta read and proof your entries before you submit. Put our critique/review session to work for you!

NOTE: The **LUW Creative Writing Contest** and the **LUW Published Book Contest** are separate contests with different guidelines and requirements, but with the SAME due date: **June 12th.**

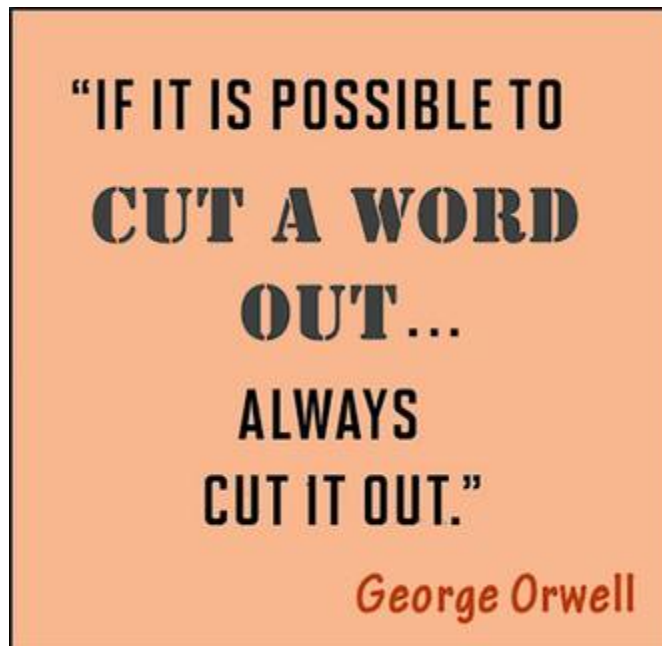
- ▶ **FutureScapes Writing Contest from UVU:** NO FEE to enter. Deadline: July 15th. Cash prizes and winners are published in the anthology. <http://www.futurescapescontest.com/>
- ▶ **The 17 Best Flash Fiction Contests (according to BookFox):** <http://thejohnfox.com/2016/03/flash-fiction-contest/>
- ▶ **Flash Fiction Challenge for 2016 – This is different from most writing contests. It costs more but everyone gets feedback:** <http://www.nycmidnight.com/Competitions/FFC/Challenge.htm>

Online Resources

- ▶ **How to Eliminate Wordiness in Your Writing:** https://www.scribendi.com/advice/how_to_eliminate_wordiness.en.html
- ▶ **The Seven Deadly Sins of Writing: The Third Deadly Sin - Wordiness:** <https://www.hamilton.edu/writing/seven-sins-of-writing/the-third-deadly-sin-wordiness>
- ▶ **Eliminating Wordiness Exercise:** <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/exercises/6/9/24>
- ▶ **Five Wordy Habits to Avoid:** <http://blog.writeathome.com/index.php/2012/08/five-wordy-habits-to-avoid/>
- ▶ **Working Past Wordiness for Fresher Writing:** <http://writeitsideways.com/working-past-wordiness-for-fresher-writing/>
- ▶ **Engaging Writing – Avoiding Wordiness and Redundancy: YouTube presentation:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tv9nlmv86Hs>

Publishing Opportunities

- ▶ **Flash Fiction – Top 20 Websites looking for Flash Fiction:** This website gives you an idea of how many people actually visit these sites and read the fiction. Many of these online journals publish longer fiction, nonfiction. <http://thejohnfox.com/flash-fiction-submissions/>
- ▶ **Novellas – 33 Publishers & Journals seeking Novellas:** According to Forbes, the eBook format has energized the novella form. <http://thejohnfox.com/journals-accepting-novellas/>



*Happy Writing (and Editing),
Ann*