

Great Reads from The Scribes' Book Lists

About Writing Biographies, Family History & Memoirs

Writing Biography & Autobiography, Brian Osborne. A succinct book with very solid advice and lots of pertinent examples, though written from a British perspective.

How to Write Your Life Story, The Complete Guide to Creating a Personal Memoir, Karen Ulrich. This attractive book is packed with good advice for anyone writing nonfiction.

The Memoir Project, A Thoroughly Non-Standardized Text for Writing & Life, Marion Roach Smith. Solid advice in clean, succinct prose, with some telling examples from the author's life, as pertinent examples of her tips for memoirists.

About Writing

A Passion for Narrative, by Jack Hodgins. A great source of inspiration and know-how for fiction writing, to master the key elements of story. Includes exercises and lots of examples.

Write Away by Elizabeth George. George offers would-be writers helpful instruction on the elements of narrative. She sites passion, talent and discipline as essential ingredients.

Writing With Power, by Peter Elbow. The author marries mystery, chaos and 'non-planning' with discipline, consciousness and control – essential elements in the writing process.

On Writing by Steven King. This book—a combo of memoir and writing advice—is clear, fun, useful, and revealing.

Writer's Digest Magazine, offers practical and informative articles, mainly about fiction writing. Check out their website for free downloads of past articles.

Good Prose, The Art of Nonfiction, Stories and advice from a lifetime of writing and editing, Tracy Kidder & Richard Todd. Solid advice for all aspects and types of nonfiction writing.

About Writing Creative Nonfiction

Keep it Real, edited by Lee Gutkind. This compilation of short, direct and insightful commentary on various aspects of the emerging creative nonfiction style of writing is easy to read and should be in every writer's library.

About Writing for Websites & Blogs

Writing for the Web 3.0, by Crawford Kilian (Self-Counsel Press). This is a succinct but thorough overview of writing within the constrained parameters of the web. Very helpful!

About Writing Historical Nonfiction

Voice & Vision, A Guide to Writing History and Other Serious Nonfiction, Stephen J. Pyne. In this sometimes ponderous ramble, Pyne gives us solid advice about how to make historical nonfiction spring to life—while staying within the bounds of truth.

Practicing History, Selected Essays, Barbara W. Tuchman. Sage advice from the matriarch of authoritative and vivid history writing on universal themes.

The Scribes, Comprehensive Writing Services

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