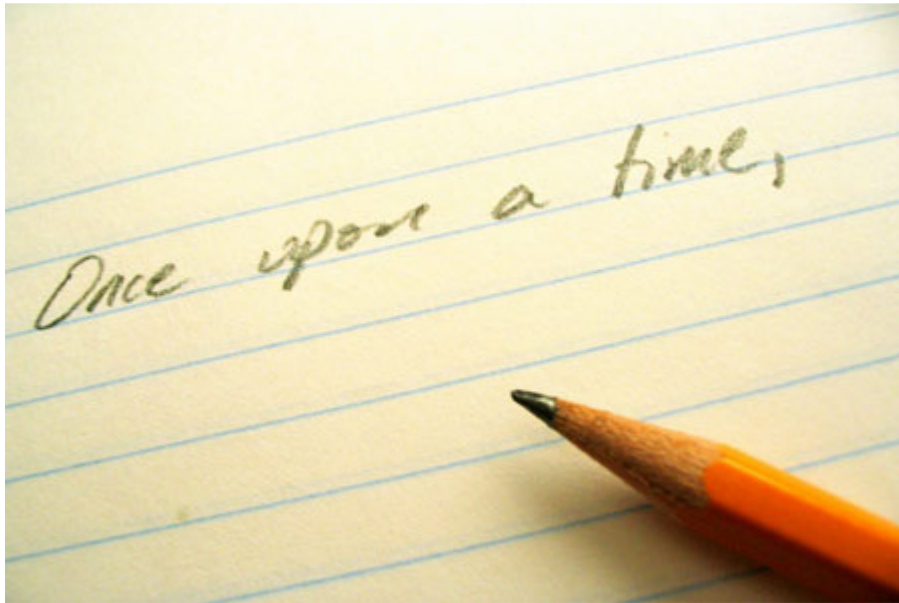


Tree of Life School

*"Wisdom is a tree of life to those to those who embrace her."
Proverbs 3:18*



Advanced English Composition

Study Guide

For *The Writer's Workshop* by Gregory Roper

The Writer's Workshop Study Guide

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BEFORE YOU BEGIN HOW THIS COURSE WORKS

This study guide is designed to accompany the text *The Writers Workshop* by Gregory Roper (ISI Books 2007). Unless you have that book open in front of you, these lessons will be incomprehensible.

Read the **Preface** on pages *vii* to *x*. Read it and do not skip it! It is foundational to understanding how this course works. Write down keywords for the author's four concluding points.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

In *The Writer's Workshop*, the author often tells the student to "bring your work to class" or "share your writing with the other students". Since our "class" is scattered far and wide, we will **share our work** through e-mail. Don't be shy! It can be a lot of fun reading each other's assignments. If you wish, you can make a "group" in your e-mail program, and enter the addresses of your tutor and the other students. Tree of Life School and your tutor will take the initiative early in September to make sure you have everyone's address.

In order to stay together as we work through the course, **there are due dates** for the assignments. The due dates are always on a Friday (but not every Friday); if you are a little late, you may mail your assignment on the Saturday. Early in the following week we will be able to read each other's work and admire, maybe critique it a little with helpful comments. Notice therefore that you do not have to e-mail some writing every time the text says "bring your work to class". Just observe the due dates as they are given in this study guide. The Mondays through Wednesdays after the Friday due dates are open to share feedback.

The course is spread out over twenty-eight weeks. There are four weeks off in December and two weeks off in March. This will allow you to rest from writing, do other work and recreation, and return to the course with new energy and a fresh perspective.

There are twenty assignments. Don't worry; most are short. Two of them will be self-checked against the solutions at the back of this study guide (no peeking!). For four of them we will ask for volunteers rather than have everyone mail their work. Be ready with the completed assignment though, because if no one thinks his is clever enough to share, the tutor will pick someone! You'll be expected to step forward at least once of the four volunteer opportunities. The final assignment will be to share something you have already written for another course or purpose.

Most of the assignments are less than a page of writing; four of them are two to three pages. You will be told how many words to aim for. One page of single-spaced typing has a bit more than 500 words. Please use the font Times New Roman, as it is easy to read and every computer has

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it, and set the size to 12 points. Write your assignment in Microsoft Word or WordPerfect, and make sure it is saved as a .doc, not .docx or .pages since the other students may not be able to read these. Name your document “writing assignment *number yourfirstname*” [eg writing assignment 8 Stanley] which will make it easier for your tutor to file all the submissions in an orderly way. When it is time to submit it, attach the file to an e-mail that has “writing assignment *number*” in the subject line. Please don’t paste the assignment in the body of the e-mail. Send the e-mail to evaluation@treeoflifeathome.com and your other classmates.

You will see the following features in this study guide:

- This black circle bullet indicates some reading or preliminary writing for you to do. It is usually one day’s work.

Assignment *n* tells you that you are to write something to send to the group later. A generous amount of time is allowed for you to work on this, if you manage your time wisely. There are always at least several days, because writing is best when re-examined freshly after a day or two, not dashed off in one afternoon.

SEND tells you when to e-mail your completed, revised, best-you-can-do version to the group.

Mr. Roper from time to time suggests that you write in your journal about the skills you are learning. This is optional and private, yet we encourage you to do so, or at least take time to clarify your thoughts even if you don’t write them down. He has also included some valuable “**Notes for Teacher Use**” at the end of the book. By all means read these! They will teach you much that you need to know to do your best.

Frequently this study guide will offer suggested topics for assignments. Your own ideas are certainly welcome also, but it might be wise to check with your tutor first for approval. We don’t mind if you even use a portion of writing from an assignment in another course. We admire work efficiency, and greatly desire that you use the skills gained here in all your writing!

Whenever you have a question, don’t hesitate to e-mail your tutor, or if you think the whole group might be wondering the same thing, e-mail all of us.

Now let us return to the text.

- Read **To the Student** on pages *xiii* to *xviii* with a pencil in hand to mark the important points.

Chapter 1 Voices of the Senses

- Read pages 3 to half of page 6. Do task 1.1 in which you describe a person. Write a paragraph of around 200 words about one of these people:

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- Read pages 6 to 11 and do task 1.3. Describe the same person that you did before. Mimic the style, even the same phrases in the same order and rhythm.
- Read pages 12 and 13 and try task 1.5. You may describe the same person you did before or a new one. Your description will have an entirely new tone.
- Read pages 14 to 16. For task 1.7 try to imitate Dickens' description of Mrs. Joe Gargery. Notice that there will be a parenthetical description of an associated character.

Assignment 1 Go over your four descriptions and improve them if you can. Remember each one has a distinct style, so do not lose this when you edit. Around 200 words each is fine. Save them all in one document called 'writing assignment 1 *yourfirstname*'.

SEND to the whole group, including your tutor, your four different descriptions in one e-mail attachment. Use "writing assignment 1" as the subject line. Tell us which style you like best. **Due Friday Sept 14.** On Monday we can share our comments using the "reply to all" button on our e-mail programs.

- Read to the end of the chapter.

