



BUDDY GROUP ORIENTATION

Your buddy group members are the best source of support, encouragement, and connection you'll enjoy throughout your Life Writers session.

Buddy groups are largely unstructured by design so each group can do what works best for them. To help your group determine how you wish to operate, complete the following questions and bring your responses to Buddy Group Orientation. This can guide your conversation.

1. What do you see as the primary function of your buddy group?

2. How often do you want to meet with your buddies each month?

3. What are the best days for you to meet?

4. What are the best times for you to meet?

5. How long do you want your buddy group sessions to last?



BUDDY GROUPS

6. How much time outside of your buddy group session do you want to invest in supporting your buddies, especially in preparing to give feedback should your group decide they want to do that?

7. What do you want to accomplish in each of your buddy group meetings, i.e., give/receive feedback on stories, read stories and receive first impression feedback, socialize, etc.?

8. If you and your buddies decide to give/receive feedback in your meetings, what specifically do you want them to edit for in your stories?

9. Any other thoughts/suggestions you wish to discuss with your buddies?



BUDDY GROUPS

Suggestions for connecting with your Buddy Group:

- Share what you're writing and why you joined Life Writers.
- Share what you need or want out of the buddy group experience (e.g., support and encouragement, brainstorming story ideas, writing suggestions, sharing goals, accountability to write regularly, etc.).
- Consider ways to connect or support one another throughout each week.
 - For example:
 - Schedule regular buddy group Zoom meeting to connect, check in, share your writing, or offer encouragement
 - Participate in virtual write-ins together
 - Make phone calls or check-in via email
 - If in the same town, meet for coffee and write together
- If your buddy group members wish to be paired up together during the monthly Feedback Group on the fourth Tuesday, **each member will need to indicate their desire to be with paired their buddies when registering** on that month's Share Stories page.
 - You will not automatically be placed with your buddy group for Feedback Group unless you specifically ask to be.
 - If you do not specifically state you want to be with your buddies, you will be grouped with other Life Writers members. This is a great way to be exposed to additional perspectives and types of feedback beyond your buddy group.