



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 Group Recommendations

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

Each month you and your buddies can provide accountability, encouragement, support, and, if desired, review each other's stories and provide specific feedback.

Buddy groups are largely unstructured by design, so each group can do what works best for them. However, we'll not leave you uninspired.

The following are some practices that worked well for previous groups.

Getting Started – Your First Buddy Group Meeting:

- Introduce yourself, what you're writing, why you joined Life Writers, etc.
- Share what you need or want out of the buddy group experience (e.g., accountability, support, critique on stories, etc.).
 - Clearly communicate what you want from your buddies.
- Agree on ways to connect or support one another throughout each week that may include:
 - Schedule weekly/biweekly/monthly buddy group Zoom meetings to connect, check in, offer encouragement, give story feedback, and such
 - 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