

TopWrite Application Guidelines - 2019

TopWrite aims to offer assistance to young, aspiring writers who may otherwise find it difficult to access opportunities to break into a writing career or to profit from the company of experienced writers. If you consider yourself to be such a person, use the below guidelines to help you to make a successful application.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for a place at the Swanwick Writers' Summer School through the TopWrite scheme:

- You must be **aged between 18 and 30** (inclusive) at the start of the Summer School (10 August 2019).
- You must **demonstrate a commitment to writing** as an ongoing pursuit or career. (For example, this may be through enrolment on a writing (or writing-related) education course, attendance at a writing night class, regular participation in a writers' group or evidence of entry in writing competitions.)
- You must **not have participated in TopWrite** in a previous year.
- You must be at **an early stage in your writing career**. (For example, if you are already earning a reliable income from your numerous published works, TopWrite is not aimed at you – though the Summer School certainly is: do consider booking a place.)

*Please also note that **it is a condition of your acceptance of a place** through TopWrite that you will **provide some feedback** to the Summer School on your experience and what you have gained from it. This will be used by the School to evaluate the TopWrite scheme and to improve it in future years.*

Supporting statement

Tell us, in **up to 500 words**, **why you are applying** for TopWrite and **why you should be given a place**. Consider the aims of the scheme, show **what you hope to gain** from the course and explain **why this opportunity is important** to you right now. This is also the part of the application in which you must **show your commitment** to writing (see Eligibility criteria, above).

Your writing may take any form you wish, as long as you observe the word limit and, needless to say, stay truthful.

Example writing

This is a piece of **your own creative writing**, **up to 1000 words** in length. (Word count is not policed with iron severity, by the way, but please don't stray wildly over this figure.) Your writing may take **any form** you wish – ideally, whatever you most enjoy writing. ('Creative' includes non-fiction, too.) Note that our decisions in allocating TopWrite places are not primarily informed by an assessment of ability (**this is not a writing competition**) so please quash any anxieties about being 'good enough'. A genuine and enduring desire to write *is* a requirement, however, and we would like to see something that has resulted from yours.

Reference

Your referee must be someone with **first-hand experience of your dedication to writing**. They must support your application through a short written statement. If you are involved in a writing-related course or group, then a tutor or co-ordinator from that group would be an appropriate choice.

The referee's statement should be no more than around 250 words long. It should state, clearly and convincingly:

- a) that the referee **considers you to be eligible** for TopWrite (based on the above criteria)
- b) **why** the referee considers you to be **likely to benefit significantly** from TopWrite.