

## A Writing Workshop Guideline for the New Daily Reader

1. Open with the *Suggested Preamble to the Twelve Steps*.
2. Provide the following brief introduction about our literature and where it originates:  
All Al-Anon is developed solely from the written sharings that Al-Anon members send to the World Service Office. When a new piece of literature is authorized by the World Service Conference, all Al-Anon members are invited to submit sharings for consideration. It is important that many Al-Anon members share their experiences in writing for all Al-Anon materials, so that our literature reflects the experience, strength, and hope of a diverse cross-section of our membership.
3. Provide the following background information that is specific to the new daily reader:  
The 2014 World Service Conference gave conceptual approval for “a new daily reader that reflects the diversity of the Al-Anon fellowship” and its members as they are today. We continue to need sharings. For most of our literature, we simply ask members to send us their recovery stories, but this new daily reader has some specific requirements.
  - Keep the sharing between 200-300 words, so that it can fit onto a single page.
  - Like our other daily readers, this book will be a collection of meditations that can help us throughout our day. Focus on a single insight that you found helpful in your personal growth and recovery. Apply an Al-Anon principle—a slogan, a Step, Tradition, or Concept; the Serenity Prayer; or other Al-Anon tool—to a real-life problem or challenge.
  - The new daily reader is intended to convey the rich diversity of personal experience that we share as a fellowship. Indicating this diversity can be challenging, since our books don’t include the names, faces, or voices of those who write. Because gender, age, relationship to the alcoholic, etc., are not always evident from members’ writings, please consider revealing these details as you focus on a particular program topic or idea.
4. Pass out the writing guide for the daily reader, along with writing paper. Review the boxed and bulleted guidelines, and draw attention to the list of questions.
5. Before asking everyone to write, mention that it takes courage to share from the heart. Invite all participants to join in saying the Serenity Prayer if they chose to do so. Then let everyone write for 20-to-30 minutes or whatever time the workshop schedule allows. Inform them when they have five minutes to go, and then when they have one more minute to go.
6. In the time that remains, invite members to share what they wrote.
7. Thank everyone for sharing. Ask them to include their mailing address so the WSO can send them a thank-you note. Collect the sharings and let everyone know that if their sharing is not used for the daily reader, it will be considered for publication in *The Forum* magazine. If it is printed in *The Forum*, they will receive complimentary copies of the magazine in which it appears.
8. Close the meeting in your usual fashion.
9. Mail the sharings to: AFG Inc., 1600 Corporate Landing Parkway, Virginia Beach, VA 23454-5617; e-mail to [wso@al-anon.org](mailto:wso@al-anon.org); or fax to 757-563-1656—Attention: New Daily Reader

**Thank You!**