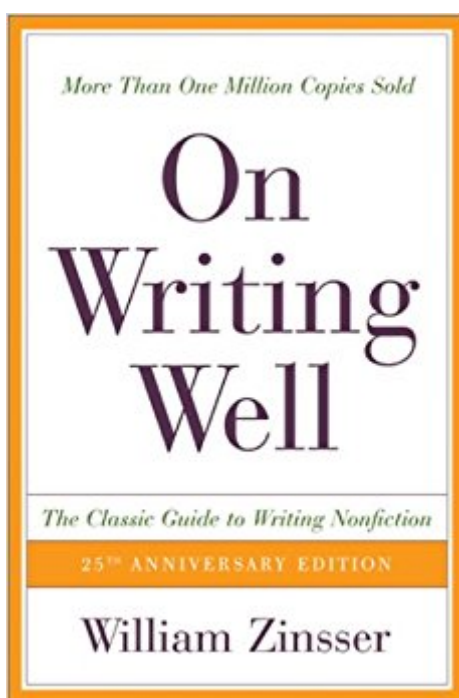


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On Writing Well, 25th Anniversary: The Classic Guide To Writing Nonfiction



Synopsis

On Writing Well has been praised for its sound advice, its clarity and the warmth of its style. It is a book for everybody who wants to learn how to write or who needs to do some writing to get through the day, as almost everybody does in the age of e-mail and the Internet. Whether you want to write about people or places, science and technology, business, sports, the arts or about yourself in the increasingly popular memoir genre, On Writing Well offers you fundamental principles as well as the insights of a distinguished writer and teacher. With more than a million copies sold, this volume has stood the test of time and remains a valuable resource for writers and would-be writers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

William Zinsser is a writer, editor and teacher. He began his career with the New York Herald Tribune and has been a longtime contributor to leading magazines. His 17 books include *Writing to Learn*; *Mitchell & Ruff*; *Spring Training*; *American Places*; *Easy to Remember: The Great American Songwriters and Their Songs*; and most recently *Writing About Your Life*. During the 1970s he taught writing at Yale, where he was master of Branford College. He now teaches at the New School, in New York, his hometown, and at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

As a video game Creative Director in a field plagued by clutter, bloat, and passive voice writing from lame producers, silly art directors hung up on movies, and young designers who think they know everything, I love showing them the secrets hidden away in this classic. Absolute must have for any

writer, especially in the business world. The first few chapters help change the world of business writing for the serious person. How did our English teachers miss this one?

I agree with the other reviewers here who advise you to get a copy of Strunk & White and the other "rule books". But in "On Writing Well", William Zinsser goes beyond do's and don't's to discuss *effective* communication, a subtler and more difficult skill to develop. He also preaches patience: like any skill, you hone it over time and have to keep practicing. As you'd expect, the writing is clear and logical throughout and the book is also well organized. The chapters in the first half focus on general issues -- "Simplicity", "Clutter", "The Lead and The Ending". The second half focusses on writing within specific fields -- Science and Technology, Business (a *wonderful* chapter everyone should read), The Arts, and so on. What I most appreciated about Zinsser's approach is that he does not aim for the lowest common denominator in his target audience, and assumes the reader knows how to write correct English. I know people have been critical of Zinsser's approach and his apparent political bent (keep in mind this was first written on the heels of the Watergate scandal -- this 25th anniversary edition is more up to date). But any of these critics, regardless of their views, would be doing well to express themselves as clearly as Zinsser does, and that is exactly the point of this book.

Not only did this book educate me about how to write well, it inspired me to become a writer myself. Zinsser's writing is outstanding. He moves the reader along, as he encourages you to do in your writing, at a steady pace with sufficient pause to educate. However, don't be fooled. This book contains a tremendous amount of information and is a book that you will find yourself reading more than once. Zinsser covers a number of specific areas including science, technology, arts, sports, business and others. Anyone who must do any writing as part of a job, or other civic duty, will benefit from reading this book. It is on my short list of references which I re-read whenever I have a chance.

"Writing isn't easy, it is hard and lonely and the words seldom just flow" says author, editor, and teacher William Zinsser. Zinsser calls "clutter" the disease of American writing. He says the secret to good writing is to strip every sentence to its cleanest components. Clutter is the laborious phrase that has pushed out the short word that means the same thing. I like his quote, "Few people realize how bad they write." On style, he tells us that you don't just try to add style. It comes with practice; that trying to add style is like adding a toupee. Be yourself, it will come. "The author's style is very

pure, he is honest, he has wit, humor and a knowledge of the art of writing. The book is sectioned in three parts: Part I is Principles and it covers basics such as clutter, style, the audience, words, usage. Part II is Methods, which discusses unity, the ever important lead and ending and hodgepodge of info called Bits and Pieces which delves into punctuation, rewrites, trusting your material, etc. Part III deals with Writing about People - the interview; writing about places - Travel Article; Writing About Yourself - the Memoir, business writing, and writing about the Arts - Critics and Columnists, and writing with humor. Part IV is about Attitudes - The Sound of Your Voice and how to craft a casual effect in writing. He says inexperienced writers miss the point trying to be "just folks." Great book...MzRizz

Product is as advertised. Arrived in great condition in a timely manner. Thank you.

I re-read this book every year, and give copies to others who are developing their writing skills.

it's a great read. i m reading and when done i shall be mailing it to my college daughter. its obviously going to further her writing skills as social and community development student. I really liked the overall condition of the book.

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