

Small Groups: Trimble Chapters 6, 7, & 8

Group One

Chapter Six: Examine the prose style of old-time sportswriter Paul Gallico (excerpt on page 57) for conciseness, vigorous verbs, and freshness. Why does Trimble place these two paragraphs at the climax of the chapter? What traits does he believe this writer exemplifies?

Group Two

Chapter Seven: Examine the two examples of readable style with which Trimble leads off this chapter. Both Anne Lamott (59) and Dorothy Allison (59-60) exhibit the sort of appealing, authentic, conversational voice that he recommends for us. How do these writers live up to his standards of conviction, passion, and integrity?

Group Three

Chapter Seven: Consider the “General English” style that Trimble recommends. A hybrid of both formal and informal qualities, Trimble aims for a “mingling of contraries: formal and informal diction, objectivity and subjectivity, impersonality and directness.” Part of the challenge, he says, is to “get the right mix.” Examine item #10 on page 71 and see how it lives up to this definition.

Group Four

Chapter Eight: Most students hear at some point in their English education that they should avoid the use of the pronoun “I” in their compositions. What is Trimble’s solution to this issue? Consider the first full paragraph of his “Closing Thoughts” in this chapter (page 86). What would it be like without “I”? Would it even make sense?