

Weinberg on Writing

"Don't write your book—build it with Weinberg's Fieldstone Method. Keep the project moving by breaking the project into easy-to-attack chunks; gather your ideas one at a time. Then stack them as you would stones in a wall."

—Dan Poynter

author of *Writing Nonfiction* and *The Self-Publishing Manual*

"... this book on 'constructing' writing, so to speak, is a delight. ... In demystifying the mysterious process of writing through the consistent metaphoric grappling hook of 'fieldstones' as ideas which float in and out of our consciousness, Weinberg has written a wise and warm book on overcoming the perils of trying to write." —Gabriele Rico, author of *Writing the Natural Way*

"Part memoir, part how-to, *Weinberg on Writing* dispenses with the mysteries and misconceptions of craft and shows any writer how—and how not to—hone their skills. ... finding fieldstones with which to build your writing strikes me as one of the more effective metaphors for the writing craft I've ever seen. ... Writers of any stripe will go far following Weinberg's method." —Jennifer Lawler, author of *Dojo Wisdom for Writers*

"Jerry Weinberg's lessons in writing are smart, funny, memorable, wise, engaging ... and, most important, it is all stuff that works, it's practical."

—Howard S. Becker, author of *Writing for Social Scientists*

"I suppose the strongest praise of a how-to writing book would be to say it's changed the way I intend to organize and write my next book. And it's true! ... This book is a gift to writers at all levels from a true pro with sterling credentials."

—Penny Raife Durant, award-winning author of nine children's books, including *When Heroes Die* and *Sniffles, Sneezes, Hiccups and Coughs*

About the Author



Inducted into the Computer Hall of Fame in its inaugural year, Jerry Weinberg's career highlights have included managing programming for Project Mercury, teaching with famed family therapist Virginia Satir, consulting for Fortune 500 companies, and writing more than 40 books along the way. Read more at <http://www.jerryweinberg.com>.

Partial Contents

1. **The Most Important Writing Lesson**
2. **The Fieldstone Method in Brief**
 - Looking at Walls
3. **The Structure of Creation versus the Structure of Presentation**
4. **Gathering Explained**
5. **Recycling Stones from Literature**
 - Gathering Exercise
 - Laundering Words
6. **Stealing Stones Safely**
 - Becoming a Professional Thief
7. **Tools to Assist Your Gathering**
8. **Gathering Fieldstones from Memory**
9. **Discarding Stones That Don't Fit**
 - Playing With Your Words
 - Exercise: Anchor Stones
10. **Criteria for Discarding Stones**
11. **Decimating Your Work**
 - The Abecedarian
12. **What I Know About Organizing**
13. **The Solitaire Approach**
 - Pull Out the Wrong Rocks
14. **Organizing Your Workspace**
 - Creating Your Environment
15. **Keep Moving Until You Have Enough**
16. **Putting Your Subconscious to Work**
17. **Shaping Stones to Fit**
18. **Filling the Cracks**
19. **Knowing When to Stop**
 - The Bingo Card Effect
20. **What Happens After You Finish?**

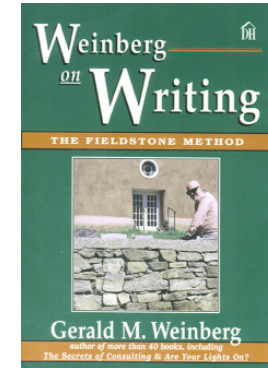
References
Index

Finalist, USA Book News Best Books Award
Finalist, Jolt Product Excellence Award

Weinberg on Writing

The Fieldstone Method

by Gerald M. Weinberg



ISBN: 978-0-932633-65-1
©2006 208 pages softcover
\$30.95 (includes \$6 UPS in US)

*A Lifetime of Writing Secrets from
One of Our Most Prolific and Popular Authors*

Gerald M. Weinberg, author of more than forty books—including nine—reveals his secrets for collecting and organizing his ideas for writing projects.

Drawing an analogy to the stone-by-stone method of building fieldstone walls, Weinberg shows writers how to construct fiction and nonfiction manuscripts from key insights, stories, and quotes. The elements, or stones, are collected nonsequentially, over time, and eventually find logical places in larger pieces.

The method renders writer's block irrelevant and has proved effective for scores of Weinberg's writing class students. If you've ever wanted to write a book or article—or need to revitalize your writing career—don't miss this intimate glimpse into the

mind behind some of the computer industry's best books.

"You can't allow yourself to get stuck in one place, which is one of the beauties of the Fieldstone Method. There's always something else to do that advances your writing when you feel stuck.

"Here's how one of my students described it:

"I also learned to appreciate my writing process. I start with some sketchy image of the overall structure. Then I write a few chunks that I have energy for, leaving other chunks for later. From there, I skip back and forth between writing new chunks and revising earlier ones. Eventually, I fill the holes and end up with a whole article. As I was writing the article, a part of me thought that I 'ought to' write a complete draft before revising. What I learned is that my skipping around is a way to keep my energy up, and helps me stay intensely focused on whatever I am writing or revising at the moment.

"Thanks for the nudge!"

—from Chapter 15

Read more about this book at
www.dorsethouse.com/books/wow.html