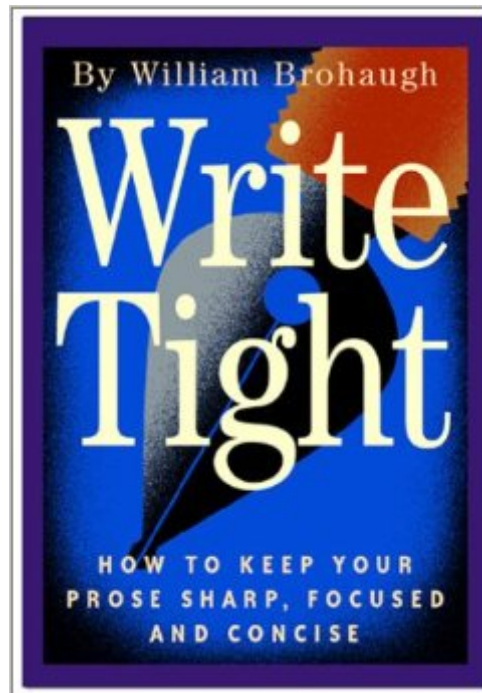


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# Write Tight: How To Keep Your Prose Sharp, Focused And Concise



## Synopsis

Writing well is, or at least should be, the goal of every writer and aspiring author. William Brohaugh, in this classic writing reference, shows how to do just that; achieve a high standard of writing. In *Write Tight*, Brohaugh teaches how to not only say exactly what you want with grace and power, using the right word, but also how to use the right number of words. Concerns examined range from unnecessary book chapters to unnecessary syllables. Taking the reader into the realm of tight writing, Brohaugh shows that good writing is often the balance of the tight and the loose.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 200 pages

Publisher: Intercollegiate Studies Institute (September 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1882926889

ISBN-13: 978-1882926886

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 6.2 x 0.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (32 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #121,260 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in [Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Poetry](#)

## Customer Reviews

As a beginning opinion columnist I quickly learned that wordiness can kill your column. How do you get the greatest effect with only 700 words? Brohaugh's book tells you. The principles he discusses in *Write Tight* apply to columnists, reporters, technical writers, or novelists. Whether you write for fun or profit, his advice will make your work more impactful. The world is full of books on better writing, so why is Brohaugh's book special? It's actually fun to read. His illustrations of wordiness are often hilarious even when his heavy shoe stomps your toes. Rather than just list poor choices of words, grammar, and style, he weaves them into his writing to show how silly and wasteful they are. If you write, you need to *Write Tight*.

If you haven't read the *MLA*, or *Chicago Manual of Style*, you gotta read this book! No writer should be without a copy. It reads like an expansion of *The Elements of Style*, by Strunk and White. If you can find a copy, buy it. It will make an excellent gift for any writer.

As a writer and editor, I found this book to be useful for every kind of writing I do. I initially read it to help me shave word count on my novel, but I found it to be infinitely useful for the work I do for my day job. There are so many common sense lessons in the book that I easily shaved 10 thousand words off my novel in one revision and I continue to find additional areas to make my writing tighter with each pass. There are useful checklists, exercises and examples to really help retain the lessons learned. The only thing that kept me from giving this book a full five stars is that it's longer than it needs to be at 240 pages. I feel like it probably would have been fine at about half that.

Bottom Line This is one of the top ten writing resources I'd recommend to all writers, not just those writing books. Anyone who writes anything for any reason will benefit from the lessons in Write Tight.

"Write Tight" - Say Exactly What You Mean with Precision and Power." William Brohaugh's book is an excellent choice for anyone who is interested in improving the quality of his or her writing. I bought it on the advice of a critique partner and it has become one of my most utilized references on writing. "The Elements of Style" by William Strunk Jr advises: "Omit needless words. Vigorous writing is concise." Brohaugh's book tells you exactly how to do it. Concise writing does not mean use all short sentences. It does mean that you should make every word count. Be clear. If your readers can't figure out what you're saying they may decide it's not worth the effort to continue. "Write Tight" addresses redundancy and overwriting. Readers are given instruction on how to create better sentences and trim the fat - all those unnecessary words. The tips are invaluable. Trash empty modifiers such as "very," "really," "usually," "generally," "basically" and "actually." Use a single word to convey a phrase. "The writer with ambition" becomes "The ambitious writer." Lose empty transitions such as "and," "however," "well," "so." Eliminate the "deadwood." Don't be pretentious. Overkill is wordy, irritating and boring. Avoid the cliché and standardized phrases. Advice, techniques, specific strategies, exercises and tests help you check your own writing. Make your writing more effective. "Write Tight" is a must have for writers of all genres.

Contents

Foreword: Write Tight or Else by Lawrence Block

Introduction: A Tight Fit Into Today's World

The Four Levels of Wordiness and How to Tackle Them

Sixteen Types of Wordiness and How to Trim Them

Prewriting Tight

Testing Your Writing for Flab

The Danger Signs of Wordiness

Exercises for Developing Your Awareness of Concision

Reducing the Mental Length of Your Manuscript

Nonverbal Streamlining

How Tight is too Tight

Putting it all Together: Write Light

Tips for Trimming During Manuscript Revision

Shave and a Haircut and a Few Bits

Bibliography, sources and an appendix of redundant phrases.

Gail Pruszkowski reviews for "Romantic Times BOOKreviews" magazine and her work has been published in the "Cup of Comfort" Anthologies. [...] [...] Article Source: [...] [...]

This book is magnificent. I've had it quite some time, but picked it up recently to read it while letting my manuscript "rest." Brohaugh doesn't just tell you you need to do a certain thing with your story, he tells you how to do it, and gives wonderful examples. It's the best how-to book on writing I've read. If I'd read it first, I wouldn't have needed to buy so many other writing books searching for answers.

Former editor of "Writer's Digest" magazine William Brohaugh presents *Write Tight: How To Keep Your Prose Sharp, Focused And Concise*, a practical guide to focusing one's message with grace, simplicity, and power, especially in today's attention-span deprived world of sound bites and distractions. From removing unnecessary syllables to excising gratuitous chapters, *Write Tight* identifies sixteen types of "flabby" writing (which says too little with too much verbage), offers "verbal aerobics" to hone one's skills, and even offers nonverbal devices such as sidebars and checklists to streamline one's manuscripts. *Write Tight* is a supremely valuable, "must-have" for aspiring writers in all fields from prose to nonfiction, journalistic copy, screenwriting and so much more.

This is book is garbage. It makes the point that it needs to within the first chapter. What are the next 11 chapters? Wordiness! This book is the most redundant thing I've ever read. It pissed me off having to read it for class.

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(Peterson's How to Write the Perfect Personal Statement) Write to Market: Deliver a Book that Sells  
(Write Faster, Write Smarter 3) Strong's Concise Concordance And Vine's Concise Dictionary Of  
The Bible Two Bible Reference Classics In One Handy Volume AMG Concise Life of Christ (AMG  
Concise Series) The Power of Broke: How Empty Pockets, a Tight Budget, and a Hunger for  
Success Can Become Your Greatest Competitive Advantage Hold Me Tight: Your Guide to the Most  
Successful Approach to Building Loving Relationships Keep Talking German Audio Course - Ten  
Days to Confidence: Advanced beginner's guide to speaking and understanding with confidence  
(Teach Yourself: Keep Talking) This book will teach you how to write better: Learn how to get what  
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mind-hacks) Mastering Suspense, Structure, and Plot: How to Write Gripping Stories That Keep  
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