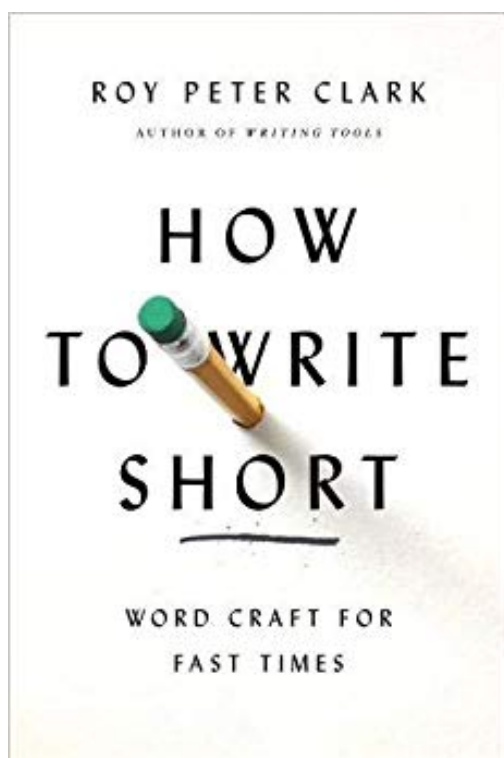


## How to Write Short: Word Craft for Fast Times by Roy Peter Clark



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**Author:** Roy Peter Clark

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America's most influential writing teacher offers an engaging and practical guide to effective short-form writing. In *HOW TO WRITE SHORT*, Roy Peter Clark turns his attention to the art of painting a thousand pictures with just a few words. Short forms of writing have always existed—from ship logs and telegrams to prayers and haikus. But in this ever-changing Internet age, short-form writing has become an essential skill. Clark covers how to write effective and powerful titles, headlines, essays, sales pitches, Tweets, letters, and even self-descriptions for online dating services. With examples from the long tradition of short-form writing in Western culture, *HOW TO WRITE SHORT* guides writers to crafting brilliant prose, even in 140 characters.



Reviews of the [How to Write Short: Word Craft for Fast](#)

## Times by Roy Peter Clark

Danskyleyn

I didn't really find it that educational or delightful as described on the front. It's a series of short chapters making points about writing short. But it read to me more like the author pointing out what he likes about short writing, with no real instruction. Just chapter after chapter of often repetitive examples. Some of the examples were fun/funny and some of the points good, but.....I didn't really learn much from it and it was a pretty boring read with the repetition. Each chapter also ends with grace notes to summarize the chapter - since each chapter was only 2-3 pages long and you had literally read the point seconds before....huh. You could just read the grace notes over to get what is in this book.

Shomeshet

He's very verbose about writing short. Lost credibility. 250 pages to tell me how and why to "write short?" I don't think so. So much should have been cut. He's using phrases like "in other words" and then restating and giving several other examples. No. I cannot take direction from someone who does not fulfill the mission of his own book. This could be re-written in a more action-oriented guide that is 1/4 of this book's length.

Arlana

You really can't go wrong with Roy Peter Clark. I bought this book because it was suggested reading in a job posting that caught my eye. That's a pretty good reference! As a life-long writer, writing short is much harder than just spilling your guts on the page. In this book, Clark gives his usual great advice about how to do it well.

Lailace

Very easy read. A little didactic with the list of "to do" points at the end of each chapter. And the author has a real thing for baseball. But overall, if you want to think about something a little differently - or get a second point of view - this book delivers.

Armin

I really enjoyed How to Write Short. The way it's organized allows for an easy grasp of the importance of short, tight writing. I'm fond of the Grace Notes that end each section because it allows you to apply each lesson right away. If you are a fan of Writing Tools, then you will really enjoy this book as well.

The exciting concept in How to Write Short is the "When words are worth a thousand pictures" thesis. This bold spin on the popular saying really captures what good writing (both long and short) needs to accomplish — paint a vivid narrative quickly so you don't lose your reader.

Each chapter is short (3-6 pages) but delivers the goods. From "Read for focus" to "Summarize and define", How to Write Short delivers tantalizing tidbits of wit and wisdom that any writer can use right away.

Nto

The first section of the book is excellent. The second half seems superfluous. (Which is ironic.) But the pointers in the first part are immediately useful, so I think it's still worth the purchase.

thrust

Very useful tips as well as action steps for practicing the techniques and working them in to your writing. This book will convince you of the importance of quality short writing, but its lessons are applicable to writing pieces of any length.

This book is not about what I thought it would be. Instead of dissecting what is known as "flash fiction" and describing what that is, it discusses other types of short writings, like dictionary words and such.

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