

Bourne
toWrite...
creative writing
workshops

This is more like a sentence

by Garf Collins

Regarding the anthology which you are going to assemble from the work of your class members, I have a question regarding the allowed size of the accumulated pieces, or as you have allowed, individual piece, because I have been trying to edit my story – No Security – of 8,250 words down to 3,000 so that it would qualify and that has proved to be impossible, although I have managed to compress it to less than 3,500 words which gives rise to the question as to whether it would still be in the acceptable range, since if not, I would find it impossible to condense further and would have to write a completely different piece which could be on any subject including; the difficulty of editing text, the preservation of character in a long piece or the regulation of tempo of a story, all of which have benefited from your advice, unless a non-fiction piece is not what you require and it would be better to attempt a new fictional essay according to some subject you might wish to suggest, such as ‘Now they’re going to see who I am,’ but perhaps you would prefer us to think of our own subjects for this purpose as a welcome change from having to suggest it for us when we assemble in our various classes, which of course are inspirational for those of us who find some difficulty in imagining topics for ourselves because, after all, you bring to the sessions the wisdom of the whole of the written word which you have picked up in a long literary life, only the more remarkable because much of it was spent in the rigours of the climate in Scotland – soon to be independent of the interfering Sassenachs who have an irritating knack of upsetting the Scots by trying to escape the European Union, but at least they are trying – probably with little success it must be admitted - to improve the quotas of fish for that hardy nation’s fishermen, whose life will no doubt be easier when those pesky nuclear submarines are out of the way down in Devonport where they belong, but, of course, they’ll then have to send off the nuclear fuel and the radio-active warheads to make silos for storing all the extra fish.