



Writer's Camp



Wordcraft at Camp: Frolleague

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Wordcraft at Camp offers bite-size lessons on language, clarity, and scholarly style from the counselors at Writer's Camp.

This month, I have spent quite a bit of time thinking about two nurses whose deaths were felt deeply, both for me and across our community—Dr. Julia Snethen and Dr. Jacqueline Fawcett. As I reflected on my relationships with them, I realized I didn't quite have the right word to describe our connections. They were more than colleagues, but not quite personal friends. That in-between space—familiar, meaningful, and rooted in shared work—needed a name—which I created: **Frolleague**.

Quick Definition

A *frolleague* is a professional colleague whom you also think of as a friend—but whose relationship remains primarily rooted in work rather than personal life.

In Practice

You look forward to seeing your frolleagues at conferences, on Zoom, or in your inbox. You may:

- share jokes or informal conversation
- exchange advice or perspective
- feel genuine affection and regard

But the relationship stays anchored in your shared professional world. You don't necessarily:

- socialize outside of work settings
- involve them in your personal life
- rely on them for non-work support

A frolleague is a friend—just not a *personal-life* friend. This kind of relationship—friendly, collegial, and bounded by context—might be called *frolleagueship*.

A frolleague is a friend you meet at work—and appreciate within that space.

— WORDCRAFT AT CAMP



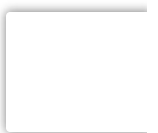
Counselor's Tip

It's possible to value someone as a friend without expanding the relationship beyond its natural context.

Recognizing a *frolleague* helps you:

- appreciate connection without overextending it
- maintain appropriate boundaries
- and navigate professional relationships with clarity

Not every friendship needs to leave the workplace to be real.



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