Reference Programs
            --Word-level composition aids.

****Masterwriter.
A word reference and rhyming dictionary. Handles slant rhymes and alternate
pronunciations. Also has a phrase database and a syllable-based alliteration
dictionary. Very useful for lyricists and poets.

****The OED
The only truly portable OED. Rapid look-up. Cheap for old versions
[pref. V2, not V3]. V4 has apparently solved some of the interface problems and
is the first Mac compatible OED.

****The Sage
Pop-up dictionary. Shift + Right Click on any word in almost any program. More
technical presentation than Wordweb. Shows hypernyms and holonyms. Sub-
definitions not logically ordered. Free.

****WordWeb
Pop-up dictionary. Shift + Right Click on any word in almost any program. Less
information [or clutter, depending on your POV] than The Sage but with a cleaner
interface. 30-day trial.

**(***)Babylon Pro
Pop-up dictionary. Shift + Right Click on any word in almost any program. Can be
loaded with Webster and the Concise Oxford thesaurus. Has multi-lingual
dictionary support. Formerly the best pop-up reference in the world--now a
spammy, bloated victim of thoughtless greed. Remains vaguely useful despite
itself.

Minimalist Word Processors
            --Page-level composition aids.

*****DarkRoom
Port of original OSX WriteRoom. The most minimal of the minimals. Beautiful in
ageless perfection. Free.

*****WriteRoom
Mac only. The original. Not free.

****Q10
More adjustable than Dark/WriteRoom. To adjust the style parameters requires OCD
levels of technical proficiency, such as knowing the pixel width of your
computer screen. Free.

***Ommwriter.
Simplified Word screen. Moderate Zen douchery. Ambient music. Free.

***http://penzu.com
Secure, internet-based Notepad. A private online journal program apparently
aimed at Mac and I-pad users. Quick-loading. Of dubious value.

Project Organizers
          --Manuscript-level composition aids.

*****Final Draft
Word-based, scriptwriting-specific program. Switches text to industry standard
formatting. Easy to use. Excellent tutorial support.

*****Scrivener
Intuitive interface with excellent tutorials. Cheap. By far the best binder
program in this category. Free beta for PC.

****PageFour
Easy to use. Smart-editing feature fairly useful. Basically an uglier, lighter
Scrivener. Good shareware options.

**(*)Celtx
3 stars for scriptwriting. 2 for other projects. Not a Final Draft replacement.
Requires user to buy add-ons for fullscreen, index cards, sketch pack, and etc.

**Liquid Story Binder
Too many features. Hard to use. Free.

**YWriter 5.0
Confusing. Near-useless button arrangements. Free.

Publishing Programs

*****www.lulu.com
An easy to use book creator. Can purchase ISBN and distribution packages.
Essential for self-publishing. Allows for the creation of E-books.

Useful Programs

*****f.lux
Alters the RGB levels in your monitor to match ambient light levels. Prevents
eye strain. Free.

*****Fences
PC-only program that creates labeled storage areas that can be hidden by double-
clinking. Great desktop organizer--how windows should work. Free.

****Dropbox
Online 2gb storage. Perfect for backup and storage. Free.

*(****) Inception Application
An Iphone/Android application that splices auditory data into a continuous,
ever-changing loop of ambient music. Useful for some, distracting for others.
Free.

Alternatives to Word

*****Openoffice
Lighter than word, yet almost identical. Free.