



Jessica Lagos, Copyeditor
www.masterpieceeditorialservices.com

12 Writing Tips

1. Find your voice by writing the same way you would tell a story or idea aloud to someone. You can refine your prose from there.
2. If a sentence is awkward for you, it won't make sense to the reader either. Rephrase or restructure it until it is clear to you.
3. Refrain from using more words than needed to get your point across. Being concise and plain is more impactful when it comes to readability and clarity.
4. Avoid filler words including clichés, adverbs, and jargon (unless the jargon is specific to your audience, and they would already have familiarity with the vocabulary). These fillers can seem empty and cause the reader to lose interest.
5. Read your writing aloud to see if it makes sense and flows well. You can catch grammatical mistakes and issues with readability this way.
6. Give any necessary background information for the reader to understand the context of what you're writing about. This ensures that the audience is on the same page as you.
7. Use the senses to help with describing a scene. This brings the story to life: the smell of fresh baked bread, the popping of fireworks, the chilly air, etc.
8. Developing an outline can help you write faster by organizing your thoughts or plot. It provides a map for you to fill in and connect the points. Writing an outline can also help with writer's block.
9. Try writing out of sequence. When you have a great idea for a scene or how to talk about an idea, write it out in the moment. You'll lose the creative spark if you wait for the sake of writing chronologically. If you have an outline, then you know where the scene will go. If not, then you can find a place for it as you write your draft.
10. Use a variety of sentence structures: compound, complex, compound-complex, long, short. The variation of sentences creates pacing and helps keep the reader's attention.
11. Stay in active voice as much as possible given it is appropriate for the situation. Active voice is more engaging, powerful, and clearer than passive voice.
12. Approach writing with a sense of curiosity and playfulness. You have something to say, so have some fun with it!

Bonus Tip: You should always have a copyeditor review your manuscript to help with tightening up writing, checking for consistency and clarity, and correcting the fine points of grammar, usage, and punctuation!