

Fiction Writing Tips



Writing is a process, no matter the genre. Fiction writing can be especially challenging because it contains many different writing elements. Fiction writing can be especially challenging because it contains many different writing elements, but there are ways to overcome these challenges. Improving can become complicated if one does not know how to start. The following 15 tips and outside resources can guide you through your revision journey.

Read

Read anything and everything you can find. Reading helps expand your vocabulary and general knowledge. It can also assist in improving the fluidity within your writing. It will also give you an understanding of what audiences look for as well as insight of what is currently available to them. You will also begin to recognize common story beats and can incorporate these in to your own writing.

Find your voice

Voice is how you express personal attitude and character. Don't feel like you have to sound like Shakespeare or Jane Austen. Every writer has a unique style based on their values and ideas. Determine yours and convey them through your writing. Voice also varies between characters. Each character has a voice that distinguishes them from another character. It will take time establishing what is important to you and learning how to implement it in your writing, but it will help you connect to your readers.

Practice writing

Practicing helps you improve your work. Decide what to focus on during practice, such as character development or describing the scene. Journaling every day is an easy way to practice because it promotes a flow of ideas. [Think Written](#) is a great website for finding prompts to guide you if you struggle to find your own ideas.

Establish a routine

Schedule a time to work on writing a few times a week. Using a writing routine helps establish consistency which will lead to enhanced writing. The routine should consist of a time and place. Make a routine that works for you and stick to it!

Finding a Genre That Works for You

Finding your favorite genre to write is a process where you will test many out. You may choose one that is your favorite, or you may like writing in multiple genres. Start by writing in the genres you most often read, such as science fiction, romance, or horror. Don't feel the need to perfectly align your genre with the typical tropes. You can merge genres together or even branch out and invent something entirely new within your favorite genre.



Write what you know

Try to use your experiences and knowledge when determining your topic. You will better connect with your readers because you will feel more confident with your writing. Your experiences and knowledge are the best place to draw inspiration because you are more comfortable with the topic about which you are writing when it is something you know. This is especially helpful when starting to write fiction. However, you also have the creative freedom to explore other topics in your writing.

Carry a notebook with you

You never know when inspiration may strike. Also, you do not want to ruin the moment by forgetting your



Allow your story to play out

Writers often have the habit of rushing through the story to arrive at the next big event. One way to avoid this issue is writing only one chunk of the story at a time. Make sure each part is written in detail and sufficiently developed. Will the readers be able to immerse themselves in to your story? Or will they feel like they are missing important pieces?



Resources

[NaNoWriMo](#): With this website, you can receive daily tasks to help you write a novel in thirty days. It can help you develop a routine for writing everyday.

[The Art of Narrative](#): A website that lists a multitude of writing resources.

On Writing by Stephen King: King provides a series of snapshots from his life that formed him into the writer he is today. The snapshots range from his time as a child to his adult adventures.

The Elements of Style by William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White: This short book covers topics from grammar and language to composition and personal style.

: For more detailed help or if you have questions, visit the Writing Center located in the Lewis University Library or call 815-836-5427.

The Quad, English Oxford Living Dictionaries, Daily Writing Tips, HuffPost, iUniverse, Writer s Digest