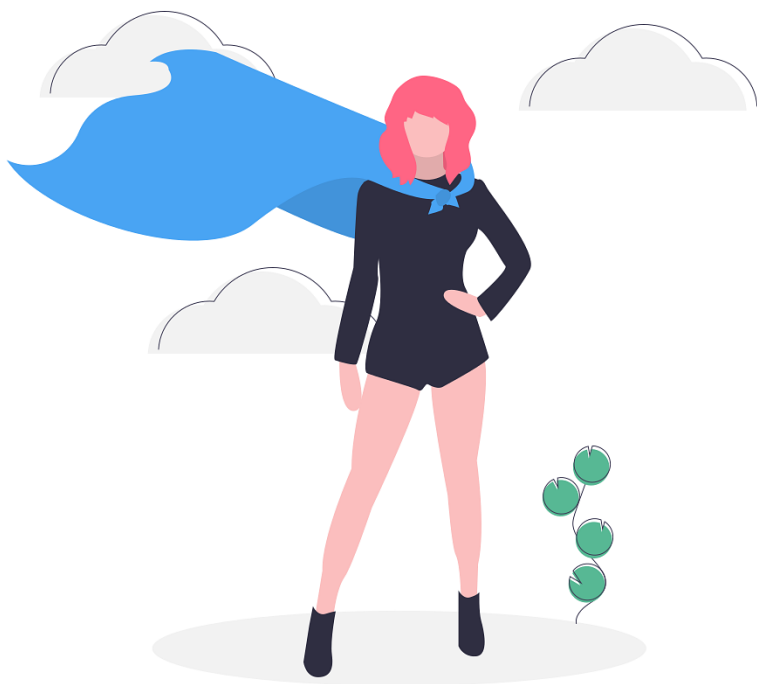




Save the World



“There are but two powers in the world, the sword and the mind. In the long run the sword is always beaten by the mind.”

— Napoleon Bonaparte

The fascinating thing about this field guide is *why* it's needed. Even The Quill is amazed by the true reason we had to write this. First of all I'm a writer—like you—and it's what was inside me. It had to be written for that reason alone.

But that's underneath the point. The introduction to this guide says on the first page that it will serve as motivation for when you don't know *what* or *why* to write. And this is where things get interesting. Half of that statement is at least a good percent of the time useless.

Let me explain why. Many times you will struggle with *how* to write, or at least you think you do. You don't know *how* to say what is inside of you, or you feel your words are inadequate to describe what you're seeing in your mind. You may not feel confident that what you feel you should write is the right thing to write. How about that alliteration, eh?

This struggle many times causes you not to write. And at that point you've let the menial *how* overcome your *what* and your *why*.

The *truly* splendid thing is that you don't often wonder *what* to write. That part is inside of you and usually comes out in heaping portions. Sure, sometimes you may have a stint of uncertainty or you may have too many things that excite you so that you can't decide which one to work on first. That is fine and normal.

But deep inside, you know *what* to write.

“Everybody has a secret world inside of them.”

— Neil Gaiman

It probably tries to bubble out of you more than your loved ones or coworkers care for, and it probably burns as you swallow it back down.

But it's there and it's undeniable. How capital!

No comrade, what you struggle with on a daily basis is most likely not letting the *how* overcome the *why*. Because if you're anything like all the other writers in the world, you fear staring a blank page in the eyes, and yet you've done it so many times you can't get its horrid glare out of your mind.

So many times in fact that you don't even stare at blank pages anymore because you don't pull open your laptop or pull out your writing pad as much as you should because you fear that nothing of worth will get written and that beastly blankness will beat you again. I'm on a roll with these alliterations this chapter.

And because you don't start writing as much as you know you should write—my dear emissary of humanity—you beat yourself up and tell yourself that maybe you're not a writer, maybe you're not cut out to be what C. S. Lewis or Dale Carnegie were.

And that's where SDF comes in. We know you're meant to be every bit as powerful of a writer as C. S. Lewis and one of the things we're best at is motivating you to keep putting words to paper (or screen).

You see, the world is constantly in a downward spiral. Not because humans are evil, but because we are human (pronounced: not perfect). Because of that, we are constantly in a state of making things worse. We can't help it.

The rules that we govern ourselves by (our morality) and our collective wisdom are the only things that stop us from falling into war all the time.

And I submit to you that it's the books that are written that contain our collective wisdom and our morality. In each age of human existence, there have been individuals who have written down their progress.

And each age after them has the benefit of those that came before them. And it is only because of the wisdom of those who came before them that the current age is able to progress further.

It is your job as a writer to hold the world, pull it up out of its downward spiral for our age of humanity, and hopefully a little into the future.

That's how you serve the world. That's how you improve humanity. That's our *why*.

Now that feels like a tall order for a nobody like me. I can't carry the whole world on my shoulders. I can't write two sentences worth of good stuff. I didn't start writing because I wanted to save the world.

I started writing because I had stories burning inside of me that wanted to come out. You might have other reasons, but I know you have *some* reason. And you have to always remember the reason you started writing and the reason that you keep writing. You have to know and remember your *why*.

All of us together can hope to help humanity if each one of us writes for his own personal *why*.

Because when you write for your own *why*, you change. You are a better person. And at the same time you help others to be better people because good writing invariably does that.

And so it goes, rippling out from each writer. Starting with herself, everyone she touches gets better. And as she writes for her *why*, she inspires others to write for their *why*. And some of that will become part of our collective wisdom. Some of it will improve how we treat each other, our morality.

I'd argue that written words coming from your heart is the most powerful tool humanity has to pull ourselves out of the downward spiral for this generation.

"The advancement and diffusion of knowledge is the only guardian of true liberty."

— James Madison

So don't let the *how* or even the *what* stop you from writing. Find your own personal *why* and never stop writing.

Write words. Save the world. It's simple, but so hard.

Exercise

Take some time to think about why you started writing or why you want to write.

What motivated you? What feelings did you have? What stories did you want to tell?

Remember everything that you set out to do. Remember how excited you were and all the visions of success you had.

Now go write all that down. Look at it periodically and let it conjure up all those emotions time before time.

After you write it down, stop to re-read it. Love those desires you have to write. Glory in it. Love knowing that you know *why* you write.