

# HJC Quick Start Guide

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*[With autonomous analytical assistance from AI drafting tools under the author's direction. All theoretical content, frameworks, and methodological structures originate with the author.]*

The Hoffman–Joyce Continuum (HJC) is a practical method for shaping how prose modulates the reader’s perception.

Every passage sits somewhere on a spectrum:

LUCID ←----→ DREAM

Your job is not to write “lucid” or “dreamlike” prose—but to control the movement between them.

## 1. Identify the Mode of Your Passage

### Lucid Mode

- stable boundaries
- clear causality
- low metaphor load
- predictable rhythm

Use for: grounding, exposition, orientation, decision-making.

### Dream Mode

- blurred boundaries
- associative logic
- sensory pressure
- rhythmic fluctuations

Use for: emotion, crisis, revelation, surreal or internal states.

> Tip: If a sentence feels “floaty” or “compressed,” it’s leaning Dream. If it feels “clean” or “analytic,” it’s leaning Lucid.

## 2. Three Tools That Control Modulation

### **A. Fusion Compounds**

Example: wholebodyturned, lightfading, motherthought.

They compress meaning and push perception toward Dream.

- Use sparingly—one per paragraph can shift the entire register.

### **B. Hinge-Dashes**

Mark micro-transitions.

Example: He stopped—listened—then stepped inside.

- They slow the reader just enough to pivot modes.

### **C. Controlled Dissolution**

Intentional weakening of syntactic or referential structure.

- Use when emotion or interiority must swell beyond clean boundaries.

## **3. Diagnose Instability: The DR Check**

When a passage feels overloaded or “mushy” (example: “She sadscowled, red-faced, blushedangry.” ), check:

- too many fusion compounds?
- too much dissolution without recapture?
- no lucid boundary reset?

If so, add one lucid sentence:

> “She sat down and finally let herself breathe.”

This single anchor often drops the Dissolution Risk (DR) sharply.

## **4. Quick Revision Workflow**

1. Label each paragraph **L** (Lucid), **H** (Hinge), or **D** (Dream).
2. Ensure movement makes sense for the emotional arc.
3. Add hinge-dashes to guide transitions.
4. Add or remove fusion compounds to adjust intensity.
5. Insert a lucid recapture sentence where the passage unravels.

## **5. Try HJC on One Paragraph**

Pick a scene you’ve already written.

Do one of the following:

- Convert it to Lucid: sharpen boundaries, remove metaphoric pressure, eliminate fusions.
- Convert it to Dream: add one fusion, one hinge-dash, soften a boundary.

Then cycle it back.

This reveals the paragraph's underlying architecture.

## **6. Where to Go Next**

Sections VII–X of the Manifesto (practical modulation techniques)

Section IX (diagnostics)

Cycling Stability (§5 in the Executive Summary)

The WCS/DR load-check for fracture points