

HJC Quck 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