

Writing Tips from Cormac McCarthy
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- Keep it *simple* while telling a *coherent, compelling story*.
- Use *minimalism* to achieve clarity.
- Decide on your paper's *theme* and two or three points you want every reader *to remember*. This theme and these points form the *single thread* that runs through your piece.
- Limit each paragraph to a *single message*.
- Don't slow the reader down—*don't break the flow of thought*.
- Choose concrete language and examples.
- Read your work *aloud* to yourself.
- Trust yourself when all men doubt you, but make allowance for their doubting too.
- Try to write the best version of your paper: the one *you like*. You can't please an anonymous reader, but you should be able to please yourself.
- Make your writing *lively and easier to understand*.