



Dakota Robertson ✓

@WrongsToWrite

Stephen King's 8 writing rules that'll make you a better writer than 12 years of English class:

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6 tips to get you into deep work:

1. Use noise-cancelling earbuds
2. Put your phone in another room
3. Block off 2 hours
4. Use website/app blockers
5. Focus on high ROI 1 task
6. Listen to Hans Zimmer

This is how you get 4 hours of writing done in 2.

"There's should be no telephone in your writing room, certainly no TV or video games for you to fool around with."

- Stephen King



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You kill your creativity when you edit while you write.

Editing uses the analytical part of your brain.

Writing uses the creative part of your brain.

Doing both is like stepping on the gas and hitting reverse.

Write first, edit later.

When you sit down to write, write. Don't do anything else except go to the bathroom, and only do that if it absolutely cannot be put off."

- Stephen King



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Can't write 1000 words? Write 500.

Can't write 500 words? Write 100.

Can't write 100 words? Write 10.

Build the habit to start and the habit will
build your ability to finish.

**"Whether it's a vignette of a single page
or an epic trilogy like 'The Lord of the
Rings,' the work is always accomplished one
word at a time."**

- Stephen King



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Never use many words when you can use one.

- A lot of → Many
- In order to → To
- Hard to do → Difficult
- For the purpose of → To
- On a weekly basis → Weekly
- Unknown people → Strangers

Respectable writing respects the readers' time.

**"...most books about writing are filled
with bullshit. The shorter the book, the
less the bullshit."**

- Stephen King



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These 3 books made me a better writer than 2 years of college:

1. Writing Tools - Roy Peter Clark
2. On Writing Well - William Zinsser
3. 100 Ways to Improve Your Writing - Gary Provost

Only cost me \$59 too.

"If you want to be a writer, you must do two things above all others: read a lot and write a lot. There's no way around these two things that I'm aware of, no shortcut."

- Stephen King



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People won't read your last line if you don't hook them on the 1st.

7 tips for your hooks:

1. Ask a question
2. Create curiosity
3. Hint at a benefit
4. Use simple words
5. Use words "you" and "your"
6. Start in the middle of the action
7. Keep your opening sentence short

"An opening line should invite the reader to begin the story. It should say: Listen. Come in here. You want to know about this."

- Stephen King



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Delete adverbs.

She didn't "Yell loudly."

She "Screamed."

The man didn't "Run quickly."

The man "Sprinted."

The house wasn't "Really small."

The house was "Tiny."

Use the right words and you won't waste them.

"[Adverbs are] like dandelions. If you have one on your lawn, it looks pretty and unique. If you fail to root it out... you find 5 the next day... 50 the day after... then.... your lawn is totally, completely, and profligately covered with dandelions."

- Stephen King



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Avoid fancy words.

Complicated writing = Harder to read.

Harder to read = Fewer people reading.

Don't say: "Affirmative."

Say: "Yes."

Don't say: "Nonplussed."

Say: "Confused."

Don't say: "Utilize."

Say: "Use."

The smartest writers write "dumb."

"One of the really bad things you can do to your writing is to dress up the vocabulary, looking for long words because you're maybe a little bit ashamed of your short ones."

- Stephen King



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