



Broad Editing and Services

Writers' Corner Solving Writers' Block Finding Your Voice

By M Broadhurst © 2007

- Pick a published short story or poem
- Familiarise yourself with the short story/poem so that you can write in the same voice and style
- Continue the story/poem and create a new story/poem or
- Rewrite the story/poem to create a fresh piece with new places and ideas

This exercise is aimed at those trying to develop their own voice, or looking to explore other voices. Using someone else's writing style can help discover your own voice, it can also help others to try something different and create work that those writers didn't think they would have been able to produce normally. It's a great way to open yourself up to new writing experiences and perhaps adapt new styles.



No one can tell you what style you should write in, it has to come from you. Styles can vary depending on your experiences, habits, mood and impression. But every now and then it can help to 'shake things up' a bit.

1. Select a published short story (or poem if poetry is your thing) with a style completely different to what you are used to using. If you are unable to find the story/poem on the Internet, your local library should be able to help you. If you are stuck for ideas, here are some possible writers to research:

- William Shakespeare (pick one of his shorter plays)
- Banjo Patterson
- HG Wells
- Shirley Jackson
- Jules Vern
- Stephen King
- DH Lawrence
- Edith Wharton

2. Read your chosen story/poem several times until you have a good feel for it. Then pick one of the following options and write using the original author's style/voice.

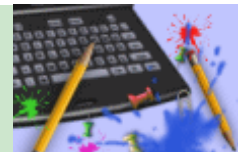
- Continue the story/poem and in doing so create a new story from the original
- Rewrite the original story taking it to new places/ideas

Important: if you wish to publish your work that has been based on another author's work then give them credit. This can be easily done with a mention of the work's title and the author weaved into your story.

Inside this issue:

Writers' Corner Solving Writers' Block: Finding Your Voice	1
Résumé Builder: Are You a Mouse or a Writer?	2
Word Finder	3
Views on Writing: When Your Characters Don't Listen	4
Sentence Starter ...	5

Visit the Writers Workshop today!



Résumé Builder

Are You a Mouse or a Writer?

By Mary Broadhurst

Progressing from amateur writer to professional writer can feel like a huge step, there's no fanfare, nothing major to make you feel different than you did yesterday, except today you may own a certificate that acknowledges your hard work. That piece of paper represents months and years of dedication while you honed your skills so that one day you could call yourself a professional, but it might not seem enough once the exhilaration of finishing the course wears off. Perhaps you have considered taking another course with the hope it might make you feel like you have earned the right to call yourself an expert. Or are you plagued with so much doubt that you think you'll never have what it takes to be initiated into the qualified status?

This mind set can be one of the hardest things to overcome for many writers, far more difficult than the countless hours of studying and persevering with rules. Does your writing drip with apologies when you submit it for publication? Do you refer to yourself as anything other than a writer simply because you don't think you've earned the right to call yourself one? Do you use phrases, such as 'I write a bit', but never say, 'I'm a writer'? It's time to stop being a mouse and stand up for yourself. You will never be accepted as a professional if you don't see yourself as one, and people will not know you're a writer unless you tell them. However, standing in your backyard or in the middle of a busy supermarket and screaming that you are a writer may cause the neighbours to shout back profanities or the shopping centre's security to lead you away. Just to make sure we're clear – that isn't professional.

Do you write nearly every day because you want to? Do you have a burning desire to create stories and can't wait to put it down on paper or type it into your computer? Do you visualise the day when everyone knows your name and bookstores all over the world carry your literary works? These things make you want to be a writer. A certificate represents your dedication, and that you have covered all the necessary sections that the institution has set. Certificates are important; they help you obtain employment in your chosen field, and they prove to others that you know what you're talking about, but they will not dispel that inner voice that fills you with doubt. You need to respect yourself and kill-off that inner voice.

Every morning when you wake up, remind yourself that you are a writer. Set some time through the day to writing (because you're not a writer unless you actually write), and at the end of the day before slumber whisks you off to dream world remind yourself again that you are a writer. Hopefully in time you will believe it and instead of saying, 'I write a bit', you'll feel confident to say, 'I'm a writer'.

Don't apologise for your writing, you wrote what felt right to you at the time. If you believe it isn't worthy of people seeing it yet then it's a draft to something better. Or if you decided it's a lost cause then feel proud you are professional enough to realise what it takes to impress the public. That doesn't mean for you to become obnoxious; 'confident' and 'in your face' are two very different things. Don't cross the line, otherwise you may find people leaping out of windows (hopefully they're open) and stampeding out of the door in a haste to exit any room you're in.

Don't worry if you've missed a day of writing. It doesn't mean you lose your writer status, it means you were busy or your brain was worn out and you had nothing left to create. It doesn't matter if it's fiction or non-fiction, writing is creative and can be mentally exhausting. You give your body a break when you're physically exhausted so be equally kind to your brain. Give it the rest it needs and come back to writing tomorrow.

It's not easy to silence the doubts, but when that inner voice starts in with the negative thoughts be ready to send it packing; stop being a mouse, stop apologising for submitting work, and never forget: you are a writer.

'Do you refer to yourself as anything other than a writer simply because you don't think you've earned the right to call yourself one?'



Word Finder

Words can be found horizontally, vertically and back to front.

H	E	L	E	E	H	W	N	O	G	A	W
C	X	A	P	E	E	R	P	E	I	D	A
A	M	D	E	N	I	T	A	I	T	A	R
E	X	I	T	O	R	E	P	L	U	M	B
M	O	E	R	E	L	F	E	L	R	A	L
I	E	S	A	V	O	U	R	E	D	N	E
M	Y	S	T	M	O	H	B	T	O	T	C
O	G	Y	H	A	M	E	A	D	O	W	S
T	O	O	E	H	U	R	C	W	D	R	T
N	L	I	S	L	I	C	K	T	L	I	A
A	U	D	I	E	N	C	E	N	E	G	S
P	E	R	S	P	I	R	A	T	O	R	Y



Word List:

adamant	ladies	plumb
audience	meadows	savoured
doodle	oeillet	slick
each	ore	thesis
ecstasy	pantomime	wagon
eulogy	paperback	warble
exit	pelham	wheel
heirloom	perspiratory	

Turn to page 6 for the answers to the Word Finder and the hidden message.

What is the hidden message?

The remaining letters will spell out a message. Can you work it out?

Target Setting at Writers' Workshop

Set your weekly targets at Writers' Workshop to help you achieve your goals. It's easy!

Step 1: Log on to, or join, the forum

Step 2: Post your target for that week

Step 3: Achieve your target with the encouragement of other writers

Step 4: Post your outcome and get ready to set new targets for yourself

Watch how quickly your dreams turn into reality through target setting and following through. You'll be amazed at what you can accomplish.



Views on Writing

Go with the Flow When Your Characters Don't Listen

(Reprint Article)

By Jordana Ryan ©

The most important skill a writer needs is the ability to go with the flow. Though you may have sat down to outline your novel, and you know exactly what you want them [characters] to do and when, it doesn't always happen that way. As you write you will learn about your characters. They may become someone you never expected them to, and sometimes they refuse to do what you want them to do.

Often it is when you try to make the character fit the mould created in your mind that you get writers block. I've found that the only way to overcome this is to sit down, write, and let your characters do the talking.

When I sat down to write my novel, *No Matter What*, I had two main characters in mind with several secondary characters. Though I never intended for Blake (one of those secondary characters) to play a role that was vital, the novel would not be the same if he had not. I found that as I wrote, Blake wanted to do his own thing, and as an author, I spent many hours trying to make him do something different. In the end, Blake won the battle and I let him be who he wanted to be.

That's not to say that you should not write an outline. Outlines are very useful tools for completing your project. There are many different ways of outlining a project. My personal style is to outline as I write. What I mean is that I write a chapter then go back and review it. Once I have reviewed that chapter, I outline what I want to happen in the next chapter. Some people write an outline at the beginning. There are pro's for writing an outline and there are pro's for not writing an outline. Ultimately, it is up to you – the author – to decide if you work better with or without one.

Remember that it is your story, but it is vital to have realistic characters. Forcing a character to go in a direction that is not true to the character makes that character less believable and will jeopardise the quality of your writing. That doesn't mean that you have no say, but it does mean that when you are stuck, try letting it flow, you might find an interesting twist that you didn't think of but your character did.

About the author: Jordana Ryan is the author of the new romance novel, *No Matter What* (Amira Press).

http://amirapress.com/shop/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=2&products_id=19

Article Source: <http://www.reprint-content.com>

'They may become someone you never expected them to, and sometimes they refuse to do what you want them to do.'

Having trouble with your story or article?

Then we have just the place for you ...

The Writers' Workshop is a free forum for writers to discuss their work. Writers helping writers. Visit today and make new friends in a supportive atmosphere!

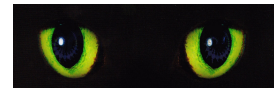


Sentence Starter ...

Many writers suffer the 'blank page' complex; therefore, each month we will supply you with a first sentence. Now your page isn't blank any more. Let your imagination take you on a journey.

This issue's sentence starter:

The Blackness closed in, it was a matter of time before ...



Target Setting at Writers' Workshop

Set your weekly targets at Writers' Workshop to help you achieve your goals. It's easy!

Step 1: Log on to, or join, the forum

Step 2: Post your target for that week

Step 3: Achieve your target with the encouragement of other writers

Step 4: Post your outcome and get ready to set new targets for yourself

Watch how quickly your dreams turn into reality through target setting and following through. You'll be amazed at what you can accomplish.



© Broad Editing and Services 2007. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the editor. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information presented in this publication, the publisher does not guarantee against the occasional error or circumstances beyond the publisher's control.

Please note that this publication may contain advertisements from outside sources. If this issue has been forwarded to you and you would like to subscribe then send us an email to mystory@broadeditingandservices.com.au with 'add to mailing list' in the subject line or join from our web site www.broadeditingandservices.com.au/writerpage.html

No part of this Writer's Quest e-zine is to be reproduced/reprinted in any medium without written consent from Broad Editing and Services. However, we are happy for you to forward this e-zine onto your friends/associates providing it remains in its entirety. Authors retain copyright over their own work.



Broad Editing and Services

proudly presents



PO Box 4394
Langwarrin VIC 3910

Phone: 0417 123 075
Fax: 03 9789 3623
info@broadeditingandservices.com.au
www.broadeditingandservices.com.au

At Broad Editing and Services, we more than just an editing or proofreading company. We are dedicated to help you, as writers, become better at your craft. That is why we offer a monthly e-zine and Writers' Workshop forum—to educate, assist and nurture your talent.

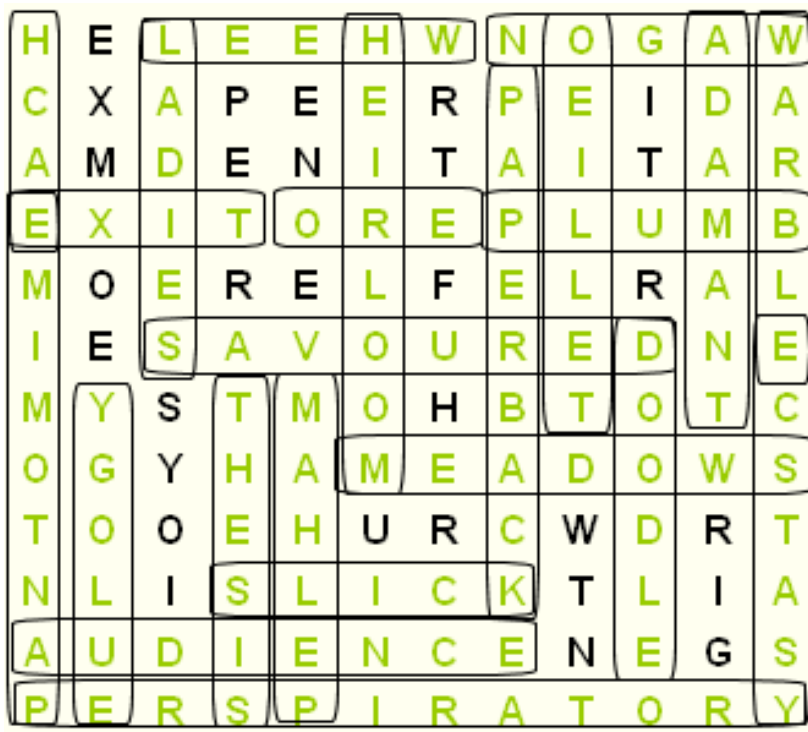
Services we offer:

- *Editing*
- *Proofreading*
- *Manuscript assessment*

Contact us or visit our web site to learn more.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT US
ON THE WEB:
www.broadeditingandservices.com.au

Answers: Word Finder



Hidden message: Experiment to refresh your writing.

Authors

We are currently accepting articles, short stories and poems. Emails us for more details.

