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VIEWS ON WRITING

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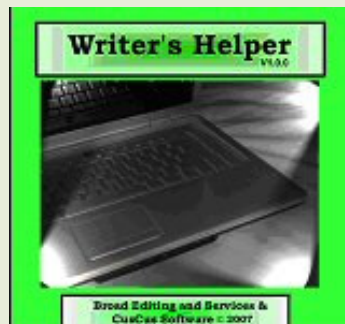
Dear Writer,

It's spring! It's not just a season in a year, it's something in the air, something that makes our hearts lighter and our troubles lessen. What a perfect time to write. So before you curl up with your favourite book tonight, why not write a page or two. There's an amazing story in you; you just have to believe.

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Views on Writing:

The Importance of Structuring: A Guide to Getting It 'Write'

By Tracy Miller © 2009

BES Writer

Structuring is an unfortunate but necessary overcoat that

Structuring is an unfortunate but necessary overcoat that many an author shuns. While the body beneath the coat is always one that strives to be a work of art, it is the overcoat that protects them. Publishers and readers simply will not tolerate a sloppy piece of work, punctuated with incorrect spelling and grammatical mistakes.

The importance of structure within an article is paramount to its success. Many writers believe the finer points of grammar, punctuation, and formal sentence structure is a time weary and exhaustive process. For the most part, they would be right. However, if structure is not adequately undertaken then the process of mental thought conveyed by the author can sometimes be lost altogether in the translation.

Generally there are certain basic rules to follow when correctly structuring an article. While authors' differ in many ways for many reasons, essentially a system of key points need to be addressed to ensure success. Writers express in different ways. Some like to pour forth their ideas like fine brandy leaving a bottle. Others prefer to make copious amounts of notes, jot down ideas for weeks, and slowly lower themselves into the bathwater of expression. Whatever your forum, everyone needs to start with the same beginning: an idea, a concept or a topic.

Key Point 1: The Idea - First Impressions Count

Topics will vary from author to author according to their platforms. Writing a sweeping romance will invariably be quite different to explaining the importance of Blooms Taxonomy as a pedagogical tool when structuring your thesis. Whatever your topic, it is the job of the author to not only ensure the reader is interested, but that they remain so. A sentence or paragraph where the eye trips and stumbles over words guarantee the reader will grow bored and move on. Ideas need to be clear and concise, and expressed accordingly.

Key Point 2: The Introduction - Get Them Interested

While topics vary according to their authors, an interesting first paragraph introducing the topic of discussion, and inviting the reader to enter into the world the author is creating, remains unchanged. First impressions count. The introduction should outline key points discussed in the rest of the article or give reference to what the story is about. It is a summary. Remember, a sentence that starts with, 'The moonlight caressed the swell of her breast as she sighed and gave herself to him' is far more likely to arouse the mind of a

herself to him' is far more likely to arouse the mind of a reader encouraging them to read on.

Key Point 3: Body - Keep Them Wanting More

The body should contain the key points the author is attempting to make whilst setting it out in a concise, easy to follow manner. If writing a story, then the format of the body should clearly take the reader down a path that entices them out of reality, while allowing them to follow a storyline that is rich in detail and depth. The interweaving and interlocking character analysis that draws a reader deep into the mind of the author is a sign of a successfully written piece of work.

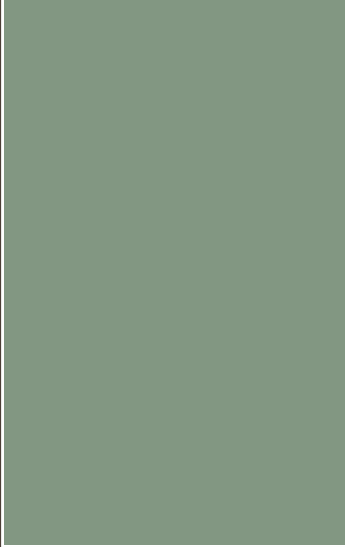
One rule of thumb when writing particularly intricate stories involving characters and their subsequent storylines is to notate the information yourself somewhere for easy referencing. A successfully structured body should be as rich and aromatic as a tawny port, aged and matured.

Key Point 4: Conclusion

When forming a conclusion, it is important not to taper off. The last leg of the race is the most exciting part. It is where the reader, absorbed in a real page-turner, goes from reading every sentence to skipping one in ever three as they speed read in their excitement to find out what happens. They have waited the whole book or article for this. Make it count. Ensure key points are referred back to, events are tied together and storylines closed down adequately. No one likes to be left hanging, wondering about unmentioned key elements the author has simply forgotten about. This is where it can be useful to have a referencing chart of characters and story lines. Ending with twists, shocks and unexpected finale's always delight, but above all else, keep the reader enthralled until the last punctuation mark on the page.

Key Point 5: Formatting, Punctuation, Spelling and Grammar.

Now groan you may, but these are just as important as the story itself. An eye stumbling across a sentence slows a reader down and the flow becomes stilted. The story gets lost, and the reader gets bored. Always check your work. Make sure syntax has been used correctly. A story on the hardships of old Ireland rings with insincerity if the language and syntax is incorrect. There are many rules that need adhering to when writing, and these can become confusing. It is vital to ensure that correct structure is perfected though, and if you are an author unable to do it yourself then take the time to ensure someone who can does.



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