



# WRITING NUGGETS

Ten Things Every  
Writer Should  
Know and Do

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Writing can be a rewarding task, but it can also be frustrating and annoying. Some days I feel like a dam opened in my brain and the words just keep flowing, and other days it feels like I have cotton wool in my brain and I have no idea what to write.

In my time as a writer I've learned some basic things- a few of which I have outlined below:

### 1. **Writer's Block? It's a Myth.**

I know what you're thinking but stay with me for a second. Think about it - if Writer's Block were real how come it only targets writers? Imagine if your daughter woke up this morning and told you she wasn't going to school because she had 'Student's Block'. You'd roll your eyes and laugh at how silly that sounded right? I know I would. Writer's block is usually an indication that something deeper is going on. Sometimes the words refuse to flow because we are afraid, or we procrastinate, or it could be that we are easily distracted. The point is everyone has bad days so why should we writers stop working because we feel stuck?

Tip: Treat Writer's Block like the myth that it is and watch your creative juices flow.

### 2. **Your Writing Voice? Find It.**

Write like you would talk. Don't use big words because you want to sound smart and professional. Guess what? Nobody cares. If your readers can't understand you, they won't take you seriously and would move on to the next book/article.

P.S: A former honourable member of the house of assembly comes to mind.

### 3. **When Writing Calls? Answer.**

Many a time when I have an idea for a story I must write about it immediately, otherwise, I lose the clarity on said story (which hardly ever returns). If you want to be a writer, you need to understand that duty (inspiration) calls whenever, wherever and however it feels like.

Tip: Have a small notebook and pen handy so that whenever you get that hotshot idea, you can document it right away.

#### 4. Can Writing Be Satisfying? Yes!

Writing may seem boring sometimes, but we writers can't deny that there's something extremely gratifying in gaining clarity for an idea that has been plaguing your mind. Or simply connecting with your readers from all over the world. Or that feeling you get when someone learned something from or got inspired by your writing.

#### 5. Your Audience? Know Them.

Think of your readers as an extension of yourself. Would you pick up your book from a bookstore shelf? Would you recommend it? Does reading it thrill you?

P.s: Your family and friends are not your target audience.

#### 6. Read. Read again. Then Read some more.

I believe this point is self-explanatory. Obviously, I am talking about reading the good stuff out there.

#### 7. Know your why.

This is the key to the treasure chest. Ask yourself why you want to write.

Acknowledge the answer, own it and commit to it. Then put your trust in God. Knowing your 'why' will help you place a value on your writing and whatever value tag you place on your writing is what it will have.

Tip: You'll have to come back to your 'why' whenever you feel down or stuck.

#### 8. **Be a good speaker and an attentive listener.**

The more you use and interact with words, the more real they become for you. When you do this, words will become a toy that you fiddle with in the playground that is your mind.

#### 9. **Establish a writing habit.**

Call it a writing routine if you like. Just make sure that you flex those writing muscles regularly. Whether by following prompts or coming up with a random topic. Just write. Remember, Practice makes perfect.

#### 10. **Choose skill over talent.**

It is no secret that some people are just born with the knack for writing. But it is also no secret that even talents die without skill. So, hone your writing. Take that writing course. Sign up with that writers' coach. Then and only then will you become the best writer you can be.

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The list above is in no way exhaustive. And you may or may not agree with everything on it. But I know something we CAN agree on is that no one in this world becomes a writer overnight. Writers are made. They are forged from the fires of their doggedness and self-will over the course of time. So, embrace the process and you'll be better for it. See you on the other side!