

A CREATIVE TONE

Authors express their imagination and ideas about the world through creative writing. By stating their ideas purposefully, passionately, and artistically, creative writers tell stories that profoundly impact their audience and explain humanity.

“Never forget: This very moment, we can change our lives... This second, we can turn the tables on Resistance [i.e. procrastination, etc]. This second, we can sit down and do our work [writing].”

~Steven Pressfield in *The War of Art*

KEYS TO WRITING CREATIVELY

1. **Know the Rules and Break them Purposefully**—As a creative writer, you need a strong grasp of grammar and the conventions of your genre. Once you fully understand both, you can break these rules for artistic effect.
2. **Read Frequently**—Consistently read texts from the genre that you’re writing in—you’ll find inspiration and improve as a writer of that genre.
3. **Show more than Tell**—Create vivid scenes that convey your intended meaning instead of directly stating the facts like you would in journalism.
4. **Know your Writing Strengths**—Learn your strengths, including dialogue, plot, imagery, meter, etc., and use them to your advantage.
5. **Master the Art of Discipline**—Learn what times of day you focus best; write during that time as consistently and often as possible. Develop manageable writing goals that encourage you to complete your work.

CREATIVE EXAMPLES

Excerpts from “The Daisy Follows the Soft Sun” By Emily Dickinson

Know Your Genre: “The daisy follows soft the sun, And when his golden walk is done, Sits shyly at his feet.”

Here, Dickinson excellently uses personification, a common feature in poetry, to set her scene.

Show more than tell: “The peace, the flight, the amethyst, Night's possibility!”

By either describing the scene like in the above example or implying meaning through characters’ actions or appearance, you can show your audience what is happening without directly stating facts.

PRACTICE NOW