

MAY 2020, ISSUE 8

PROVISIONAL PEN MONTHLY

The official e-newsletter of Provisional Pen Writing Services



YES, YOU MAY...

- call it a draft and call it a day (for now).
- write something just for the fun of it.

This month, give yourself permission to start relaxing when you write. Work with the intention of being less than perfect. We know it sounds counterintuitive, but if you release some of that pressure, you free yourself to create something worthwhile. And, while you're at it, be sure to check out the writing tips on our new YouTube channel.

Happy Writing!

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News @ *Provisional Pen* WRITING SERVICES

YOUTUBE CHANNEL WRITING VIDEOS

One of the great advantages of technology is that you can find writing help pretty much anytime, anywhere, in various formats. Here at Provisional Pen, we're excited to be able to offer that help. In fact, our founder, Teresa Boyer, has started a YouTube channel so we have another place to share writing tips with you.

On the channel, you'll currently find videos covering topics like working with sources, varying sentence styles, and coming up with titles that fit different types of writing. Check out the channel from time to time to see what's been added, or subscribe to get notifications of new content. And, as Teresa likes to say, "Keep writing!"

For Teresa's latest writing tips, check out her YouTube channel.



WRITING TIP OF THE MONTH

CREATE A DRAFT IN PROGRESS

Trying to get everything right in one draft when you write can be really tempting. One of our staffers can definitely relate, as this used to be her writing process. Once she gave methods like outlining before and revising and editing after drafting a chance, however, her writing improved and things were a bit less stressful. That said, we know how hard it is to completely separate revision and editing from writing a draft, so here are some tips to help you avoid focusing so much on details that you distract yourself from getting anything written:

Leave a quick note where you might like to revise later. If you know you'll need to further develop a section, by including and citing some research, for example, you can leave a note or comment in your draft, something like "Research this," or "Add examples." That way, you don't have to worry about forgetting what you want to do, but you don't have to stop drafting to do it right now.

Highlight possible future edits. If you don't find it distracting, you can highlight words or sentences

you may want to change later. Doing so might help you move on rather than obsessing about grammar, word choice, and sentence structure before you finish drafting.

Give in sparingly to the urge to line edit. Okay, we understand that sometimes you just have to make a correction before you can move on. We've been there, too. Just make sure this is the exception rather than the rule, for both your peace of mind and productivity. In most cases, you'll find a complete piece of writing is more useful than one flawless sentence.

Take a break if it gets to be too much. Unless you're truly pressed for time, you don't have to write an entire draft in one sitting. In fact, you might find that taking a little break makes you more productive. Once you've cleared your mind of nitpicky distractions, you can pick up where you left off.

Remember, until you've decided your project is complete (whether due to a deadline or your own assessment), your writing is a work in progress.



DRAFT

MONTHLY WRITING INSPIRATION

ENJOY WRITING AGAIN!

If you could write anything, what would it be? A children's book, a poetry collection, a cozy mystery? Life often gets in the way of what we want to create as writers, and we end up completing only what helps us make a living. By no means should you stop writing what earns you money if you're not in a financially comfortable position. But, that doesn't mean you have to completely give up your writing dreams.

Here are a couple ways to go about rekindling your passion for writing: let your mind play and make some time for yourself. When you approach writing as a chance to create something rather than a means to an end, you can actually have fun with it. If you're writing something just for yourself, you don't need to worry whether anyone else would like it. Maybe you haven't allowed yourself to do that since, for example, you wrote journal entries or poems or

stories as a child. Fortunately, you can still create for creation's sake.

But wait, you may object, what about all the responsibilities I have now that I didn't have back then? This is an important point you bring up, certainly, but if you view writing as a creative self-care activity, you may be able to find a little time every day or a few times a week. And, if you're actually having fun writing whatever you want, you're more likely to find time than if you're writing because you have to do so. You might find yourself replacing things like TV time with writing time, and there's nothing wrong with that.

And, if you end up liking one of your creations enough to move it forward in the process to revision, editing, asking for feedback, and pursuing publication, that's great, too.



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